

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

December 6, 2005

7:30 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Mayor Baines called upon Alderman Shea.

Alderman Shea stated, Maureen, would you come up please.

Mayor Baines stated that would be my wife, Maureen, 31 years by the way.

Alderman Shea stated Maureen you are the wind beneath his wings. Every family has a wife...you are dedicated and you're a wonderful mother and a wonderful wife and he wouldn't be the person he is today without you. You are very special. On behalf of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen...this is a plaque which is obviously given by all of the Aldermen and by city officials in honor of a Mayor who served us for six wonderful years and it says:

Robert A. Baines
Mayor
January 4, 2002 to January 2, 2006

In appreciation for a lifetime's worth of service to the City of Manchester
the Board of Aldermen conveys this plaque to

Mayor Robert A. Baines
through his tireless efforts the City of Manchester now has a school system that will have facilities everyone can be proud of, a professional sports team generating income as well as prestige and a downtown economic revival that leads the state.

presented the 6th day of December, 2005

Mayor Baines stated let me just say a couple of brief words. We are going to do something that maybe will start a tradition. On December 29th my family will gather here in the Chambers with our friends and supporters and anybody else who would like to come here. I'm going to give a farewell address to the city so I can adequately express in thoughtful words the great appreciation that I have for the great honor of serving as Mayor of my hometown. So, I am going to leave that for another day but there are some things I do need to say tonight. My first formal regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen is to thank the Board of Aldermen. When you become Aldermen it's not about me, it's about we.

We can never accomplish anything individually. We can accomplish a great deal through the collective wisdom, strength, determination and courage of people who are willing to do the right thing on behalf of the citizens of Manchester and what we often do...hopefully not too often maybe have to go against the grain and do some things that are not popular. On occasion we have to ask people to spend a little bit more money than any of us would like but if you dot he common good, you look after children, in particular...I've often said that you judge a community how it reacts to two very special groups of people not exclusive of others but it's the children and our seniors and what I've tried to do based upon how I was raised in this city, about giving back and making contributions to people that are in need of a helping hand, a kind word and gentle touch and tonight I'm going to recognize some people that really represent what I've tried to do as Mayor because it's not always the grand projects and it's nice to have them mentioned, it's the things you're able to do for people that are not perhaps not noticed, they never make the newspaper but you're able to contribute to someone's dignity in their life here in our great city. So, it has been a great honor and my family has been a great part of it and again they are all going to be here...they started with me when I announced for Mayor right here on January 28, 1999...almost a whole year before that election...when my children were a part of what I've done, they were part of my election at that time, they've been a very important part of my life and they have been steadfast in their support for me. Tonight, I do want to introduce a few people that are here. I didn't know this recognition was going to be tonight but I do appreciate it. First of all, a person who has been at the very...you'll have to forgive me...I do want to do this but you have to forgive me because it's real important for me to say this. My sister, Shirley...many of you know and love and admire. There's one thing that changed over the past years that made my job more difficult, my life more difficult and my politics more difficult because someone who has stood by me my entire life is fighting a battle, is winning the battle...my sister Shirley and I want to thank her for all she's done for me. There are a lot of heroes in our community...I started the Cancer Crusade this year and I know Mayor-Elect Guinta will continue it because it's very important that there's leadership in the community around this insidious disease, it's about early detection, it's about recognizing that all of us have responsibility to get checked regularly and fight the battle when it comes upon you because you lead by example. If you've seen the struggle that she's made and the fact that she's out enjoying life, enjoying family is really a triumph over adversity and in comparison to my setback in November there's no comparison at all. I said last night at the testimonial if I had two wishes on election day...one was to win the election and one was for my sister to have good health...there would have been no contest with that. So, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for our work together, the great things that we've accomplished on behalf of this great city and the best is still yet to come. Thank you very, very much.

Mayor Baines stated today I would like to make some presentations and I'd like to ask this individual to come forward...Maureen Beauregard...Maureen would you come up here. When you're mayor and when you're involved in the community as long as I have been you recognize that there are people in the community that are heroes and Maureen has heard me

say this many times...first of all she has the same name as my wife so that's a pretty good thing...a little confusing, there's been a number of Maureen's in my life...but, I often tell young people when I was in education not to look for heroes necessarily on football fields, the gridiron, arenas or whatever...they're amongst us every day and when you see people like Maureen who has been so determined to fight homelessness in our city and to restore human dignity to the lives of people she's truly been a hero in our community and I'm going to recognize several people along those lines tonight with a Key to the City and when I present it I always tell people that it doesn't open anything but it's a symbol of the doors of opportunity that you have opened for so many people in our community. Maureen, when you opened that facility on the west side and I had the opportunity to visit with people who were experiencing the joy of a good place to live for the first time in their lives with a sense of security that's a real tribute to your work on behalf of our city so it's with that appreciation..."in recognition of your tireless work on behalf of the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless in our city" I present you this honor with a Key to the City and thank you so much for your dedication to the people of Manchester. Thank you. Would you like to say something?

Ms. Maureen Beauregard stated Mayor I want to thank you for keeping our cause and making us proud to be citizens. Thank you very much.

Mayor Baines called upon Mary Sliney...would you come forward please. When you work with somebody like Mary and Maureen and some of the others we're recognizing tonight...I've often said I'd like to quote that beautiful church hymn that I love so much "whatsoever you do for the least of my people that you do unto me." There's another great hymn that I think about you is "all are welcomed in this place" and what you've done, Mary, your work on providing safe housing for our citizens and your recent work with the Health Department to irradiate lead paint from housing here in Manchester and will save lives. Manchester has the unfortunate distinction of being the last city in America where a child actually died from lead poisoning in our city and that's not something we should be proud of but it's something if we mobilize all the efforts in the community and follow the lead of people like Mary we can save lives and we can ensure that people that come from far and wide and don't have the resources are in safe housing so they can realize the American Dream like the rest of us. Mary, on behalf of everyone that you've served, the people who really depend upon you doing God's work say in recognition of your efforts to provide safe housing for the citizens of our city I congratulate you and it's an honor to be a friend of yours and work with you on this great cause, congratulations, Mary. Do you want to say something?

Ms. Mary Sliney stated thank you very much. The heart of the city is revealed so often in the decisions that are made in this room and sometimes when I come through that little open door to say my peace and make my requests I feel like I'm going inside a sanctuary but that's because what we're about when we touch the hearts and souls of the men and women and

children who are residents of this city we are doing sacred work and I want to thank the Mayor for recognizing that and thank all of you for the heart and soul that you put into what you do.

Mayor Baines called upon Fred Robinson...please come forward. Fred represents an organization I have been involved with since 1980 when I first became principal at Manchester High School West and Dick Maynard will remember that the goal of the student body, at that time, to fill the principal's office with canned goods for The Soup Kitchen which was located right down here in the alley, right near City Hall and that group by the time I left West High School is the largest food drive for New Horizons and for the poor in the State of New Hampshire, it's a partnership that blossomed to encourage young people to look out for the most needy of our community and to make a commitment to the homeless that they are respected and have the dignity...some of the things that Glen was talking about earlier that they're in a community that's loving, that has their support...Fred, this is presented to you in a sense to all of your predecessors as well...you've done such great work for the homeless in our community..."in recognition of your passion and respect for the homeless in our city"...I commend you and present you with this Key to the City. Thank you, Fred, for doing God's work.

Mr. Fred Robinson stated I thank the Mayor for all his work and showing some of the students from West High a couple of weeks ago pictures of the principal's office...Principal Baines collecting the food and that's been a tradition now for 20 years or more...25 years and we also want to thank the Board of Aldermen for their support. I'm here every year as Mary and Maureen are for support and also the members of the Manchester community supporting us.

Mayor Baines called upon Peter Ramsey...come forward please. Many of you know that I spend a lot of time reading to children in schools and I tell them there's three secrets to success in school. Number one is, number two is and number three is...read. There's a great book that I like to read to them it's called *The Song and Dance Man*. When I tell children about the story of The Palace Theatre's built in 1915 and it was built for vaudeville and of course children have no idea what vaudeville was and I had two uncles the Baines Twins that danced in vaudeville on The Palace Theatre stage and I have a great picture of them from *The Union Leader* that was given to me by one of the daughters of one of my uncles who recently passed away. So, I tell a story about there was a day before television and movies and people used to go to theaters and they would listen to song and dance men...it's a story about a grandfather, the kids come over, the grandchildren come over for dinner and grandma's cooking and grandpa says I want you to come up to the attic and he goes up there and he takes out his bowler hat and he reenacts the day, the good old days, the song and dance days and I tell the children about The Palace Theatre and I say to them how many of you have been to The Palace Theatre and guess what every child raises their hand and that's something that's been accomplished by Peter Ramsey and it was in part because when I

became Mayor and I'm very proud of this, I made a pledge that the doors of The Palace Theatre would never close again because it had been shut and had gone bankrupt just before the time I became Mayor and the city through the CIP and the support of the Aldermen we have helped The Palace Theatre survive all of these years and the result of that amount of money...what Peter has done is ensure that every child in the City of Manchester gets to go to The Palace Theatre and last year over 100,000 people went through the doors of The Palace Theatre and that's a great tribute to our community...we used to have over 20 theaters in Manchester, we only have one and we need to respect it and that's what Peter has done through his work with The Palace of opening the doors of The Palace Theatre to children so they get to enjoy the theater and they respect the theater and you build customers as time goes on. Peter, you're a real hero of our community and I presented them that book by the way about a year ago and I said thank you for being Manchester's *Song and Dance Man*. Peter, on behalf of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen I'd like to present you with this Key to the City..."in recognition of your efforts to open the doors of The Palace Theatre to the children of our city." Thank you, Peter.

Mr. Peter Ramsey stated thank you very much, Mayor...thank you very much to the members of the Board of Aldermen for keeping The Palace Theatre alive, it's a wonderful place, thousands of children do come. I want to invite you all to come to A Christmas Carol which we're working on right now...we open on Friday night and we'll be glad to know that 2,400 kids will be coming to see that. As Tiny Tim says "God Bless You All" even democrats and republicans.

Mayor Baines stated the next two people I'm going to call up together...Linda Heath and Ellie Murphy.

Alderman Porter asked Mayor may I ask a question of Peter? What do you have against independents?

Mayor Baines stated there's actually an Independence Day.

Mayor Baines stated I'm bringing these two ladies up for a specific reason. Manchester is a wonderful place and it's a wonderful place because we have great schools, we have great educators and these two schools in particular I'm singling out not at the exclusion of others but to make a couple of points tonight. These two schools welcome people from all over the world in greater numbers than any other schools in the City of Manchester. They have people from Somalia, from the Sudan, from Iraq, from Afghanistan, from Russia and we could go on and on it's like the United Nations at both of these schools and both of these schools really do open up the American Dream for young people in our community as they've done for generations by the way especially Henry Wilson School...my mother went to the Henry Wilson School and Henry Wilson is the only Vice President of the United States from New Hampshire by the way and I was instrumental in getting it renamed the

Wilson Street School to the Henry Wilson School but I'm recognizing them for a couple of reasons. Educators, in general, are under a lot of stress these days because of national testing standards which I respect but all too oftentimes the people who do this work get mischaracterized and schools get labeled incorrectly and you hear oftentimes about failing schools. There are no failing schools in the City of Manchester. What we have are teachers and educators that are doing their best each and every day to educate children to the best of their abilities and they do it in magnificent and glorious ways and all you have to do is walk through the doors of Beech Street School and Henry Wilson School and I tell people love hits you in the face because this is a place where people love what they do and they create magic each and every day under some of the most challenging and different circumstances. So, I'm saluting these two individuals as representative of a great and dynamic public school system here in the City of Manchester and when we leave office on January 2nd I know we're leaving the schools in the best shape they've ever been physically and educationally ready to meet all of the challenges that come their way because of people like Eleanor Murphy and Linda Heath. So, it is with that respect and admiration that I present them with Keys to the City "in recognition of your commitment to the children of Manchester" you truly are doing God's work each and every day...congratulations and I'm honored to be your friend and your colleague and I will continue to be a visitor to both of your schools, congratulations.

Ms. Eleanor Murphy stated I just want to say thank you and the Mayor has been very, very visible and a real friend to the students and staff at Beech Street School. He comes through if he has an hour in his schedule to just say hello to read a story so I want to accept this on behalf of the students and staff at Beech Street School. Thank you very much.

Ms. Linda Heath stated on behalf of the students, parents and staff I want to thank you for all the support that you have given Henry Wilson School over the years. You have really made a difference in our lives in difficult times...you're right we speak many languages but the one language is we care about each other and we support each other...our door is always open to you.

- 3.** Presentation of Arts Award to Russ Poehlman and presentations of Certificates of Appreciation to the Friends of the Valley Street Cemetery and Ocean National Bank for their contributions to the Art Fund.

Mayor Baines called upon Peter Ramsey and members of the Arts Commission including my Special Assistant to the Arts the one and only Georgie Reagan could you come up as well.

Mr. Ramsey stated I'd like to introduce, Richard Maynard and Ms. Grace Freije, Co-Chair, Al St. Cyr and Georgie Reagan, of course. I'm proud to announce that the Manchester Arts Commission on behalf of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen would like to present to a legendary figure in the City of Manchester Mr. Russ Poehlman.

Mr. Maynard stated just a few words about Russell...a graduate of West High School, taught at Southside Jr. High School as a Music Educator, then came to West High School as the Director of Bands...I worked with Russell in the Music Department at West, he left West about 1980 and became the Director of Fine Arts for almost 25 years and we would like to say that many children in the City of Manchester have benefited by this man's caring, concern for the music needs of all of the schools and we wish him well in the future. Thank you, Russell.

Mr. Russ Poehlman stated I want to thank the Commission for this surprise but if it wasn't for the staff, the Fine Arts staff in the city and the parents that I've worked with over the 33 years that I worked for the city this wouldn't have happened, so thanks to those people. Thank you.

Ms. George Reagan stated I do have a different title it's Assistant for the Arts but I have a lot of old favorite projects that thanks to the generosity of the Arts Commission they're allowing me the privilege of making this presentation and this is on behalf of the Manchester Art Fund which since a year ago August has accumulated \$14,607.00 and I have to say that's because we have wonderful organizations and supporters like Ron Covey and Ocean National Bank, so I would like to introduce Ron Covey, Senior Vice President of Ocean National Bank and we thank him for that wonderful art exhibit downstairs by Central High School.

Mr. Ron Covey stated I would just like to say on behalf of Ocean it's really our pleasure to support the Art Fund and certainly the continued sponsorship of the exhibits downstairs and would like to thank the Mayor and the Aldermen for their support in allowing it to happen here at City Hall.

Ms. Reagan stated I'm sorry to say that John Wood who is the next recipient for the Friends of the Valley Cemetery had a last minute emergency but the Friends of the Valley Cemetery shared their financial success of the recent Beautiful Benches and made a generous contribution to the Manchester Art Fund for which we thank them very much and we're sorry that he's not here.

4. Adopt-A-Spot presentation.

Captain Marc Lussier, Manchester Police Department, stated two years ago I embarked upon a program put on by the State of New Hampshire...Certified Public Manager Program sponsored by the Human Resources Department and part of that program my classmates were Jennie Angel from Information Systems, Captain Mike Gamache from the Fire Department and Kathleen Schmidt from the Library...Kathleen has since left the Library...the three of us are still part of the program and just recently graduated. One of the things we wanted to talk to you about this evening was one of the components of that

program involved coming up with a project, working together and we chose as city employees to embark on a program that would benefit the City of Manchester. We realized quickly in trying to come up with an idea that Manchester has become a destination city and there has been a lot of progress made over the years, we've become a gateway, we have great hockey games, baseball games, the arts have really made an impact you can see by the banner right here in front of you all, the Verizon has brought many events to us plus the downtown area has really come a long way...but, the one thing that we thought was there was still one issue that needed to be addressed and that is litter. We came up with this idea of Adopt-A-Spot...Adopt-A-Block, Adopt-A-Highway...that kind of thing. It's not a new idea there are programs like this throughout the country and we thought it would be a good thing for Manchester and it's all about citizens of Manchester coming together to clean up Manchester and make it a better place to live. One of the things we did at the onset was we met with Frank Thomas from the Highway Department who is Jennie's mentor and we approached him about the Adopt-A-Block, Adopt-A-Spot Program...Frank was very excited about this, it is something he had thought about in the past...there's always been a couple of issues that have hindered it, however, and one of those were the legal aspects and the liability issues. Working with the City Solicitor's office and Risk Management we were able to address those...also in conjunction with the Voluntary Action Center and we're able to get around those issues and really start moving ahead with the Adopt-A-Spot Program. At this point I'd like to let Jennie tell you a little bit more about it.

Ms. Jennie Angel stated as Marc said we had to do a project and we originally were talking about/thought about Adopt-A-Spot, we thought it would be really nice to put the polish on the city and we were thinking of flowers and shrubs and all of that and then we quickly realized that the project was much larger than what we could do and we ended up reducing it down to litter. As you see here this is the D. W. Highway, this is the backside of Livingston...I took these pictures this morning and it's a busy road, there's a lot of takeout restaurants and it's just...no one is taking care of this litter and we recognize that a lot of other communities have Adopt-A-Street programs and we said why not Manchester and so this became Phase I of the Adopt-A-Spot Program and we'll get to a little later why we're at Phase I. What we've got is the Litter Abatement Program, it's a city wide effort, it's not in the main streets, it's all over the city, sponsored by the city and can involve individuals, groups and businesses who want to participate. What we're doing and how this is different from what the city has done in the past is we're encouraging long-term adoption. The city has had Adopt-A-Park days...cleanup days...one shot deals encouraging groups to adopt a section of highway or an area for a period of time that they will be responsible for. There are going to be areas that are targeted by the Highway Department and the Parks and Recreation Department. Groups can also request their own areas, there will be assistance with bags and some tools and the areas will be assigned that are appropriate for the group...we don't want young people working on median strips so we'll be working with the Highway Department for that and one of the things of this program that they're working towards is once there are spots for citizens to come and choose because they're going to be places in parks, there is

also going to be places on city streets but it's all going to be funneled through the Highway Department...we've put together all of the forms and all of the releases that will be required and they've been approved and as Marc we're working with the Voluntary Action Center and we're ready for rollout and implementation working with Parks and Highway and ready for this year's spring cleanup. We do have a website where we download the forms and eventually we'll have credits out on the program. What happened was we talked with Frank Thomas and Frank said let's do it, contacted the Mayor's office and then Bruce got a call from the Chamber who is also working on an Adopt-A-Spot type program and they were actually working toward getting the landscaping and the flowers set and Bruce will talk about when we realized that there were very complicated projects going on and we were working on the litter and they were working on the more grandiose things.

Mr. Bruce Thomas, Highway Department, stated I'm currently on the Chamber of Commerce's Adopt-A-Spot Sub-committee and basically this committee's plan is to increase the scope of the Adopt-A-Spot Program to include landscaping in different areas of the city. Primarily we found that most of the areas we've seen...I think there's areas all over the city that could have some work done but in particular I have some pictures up on the screen of several areas...what we're planning on doing is identifying these areas and hopefully get businesses to adopt them and increase some of the landscaping to make the city more presentable especially in this Canal Street area where it is zoned pretty much as one of the gateways to the city. So, you can see there's a location on Lake Avenue and Pine Street...quite a few areas in the city that really need to be brought up to an aesthetically pleasing condition. The Highway Department is going to be maintaining the plan of all of these areas...the plan will show what areas have been adopted and by whom, the Chamber of Commerce will be the ones to approach the businesses, match the businesses with the locations and we're hoping that we'll get a good involvement from businesses. The intent is to have all the landscaping done under one annual contract. We are still working on the plan but one alternative is to have one company sponsor one specific area. Another type of plan that we could do is offer a section...one median strip on Canal Street for a prime location and after that there's a higher cost and the cost over and above to clean that area up could clean up another area of town. I've put in a couple of landscape possibilities the city could try to shoot for in some of those areas I showed before. I did want to point out here a success story here in the city...Queen City off ramp off Second Street across from Dairy Queen. Jane Beaulieu has actually cleaned up that area and it really looks nice. Now isn't probably the best time of year to go and see that but there's some nice flowers there, kind of hard to see the color from this picture but this really is a success story and we're hoping to capitalize on this type of treatment for some of the other areas in the city. I think this is a great plan and people can call me with any questions so I can hook them up with the people involved.

Ms. Angel stated I'd just like to point out one thing here. We've got two programs here...we've got Phase I of the Adopt-A-Spot for litter abatement and that one we're

targeting volunteers but we're looking at youth groups to adopt areas and a Chamber has a program for the actual landscaping.

Alderman Shea as Chairman of the Board of Alderman asked do members of the Board have any questions as this time?

Alderman Lopez replied I have one. I noticed that your concentration is downtown, are there any plans to go into the neighborhoods or around Second Street, Kelley Street, South Main Street...places like that?

Ms. Angel replied as far as Phase I of the program with the litter abatement we're planning to cover all sections of the city through youth groups, businesses and places in their area...they could go to the Highway Department and get supplies as part of Phase I.

Mr. Thomas stated I would just point out for the landscaping portion of it I think the city would target the gateways of the city...Brown Avenue might be one, Canal Street's another...the Amoskeag Rotary...that type of area. Areas where people get their first impression as they drive into the city.

Alderman Lopez stated I understand that but are there any plans to expand it into the neighborhoods?

Mr. Thomas stated I think there is but I think we'd have to see how it goes. If a business wanted to sponsor a neighborhood or anything like that I think it would be supported.

Chairman Shea called upon Alderman DeVries.

Alderman DeVries stated thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand you need to walk before you run with this program and you're trying to get the first phase up and going I might suggest that there be some sort of formal process that whoever the volunteer coordinator is for the litter cleanup throughout the city maybe actually write to the Aldermen to get some feedback from the individual aldermen, give them a place or a website that you would like them to register sites and a deadline that we have to do it by so that your program can move forward if you haven't heard from the individual aldermen but I could probably tell you five or six areas that are hot spots for litter in my ward and then however they prioritize afterward but I would appreciate that to hear from you.

Mr. Thomas stated as we start off the Highway Department is going to identify a point of contact...if anybody wants to get involved can contact either me or through the website and would be put in contact with that person, put down the whole program, go over the waiver forms and they will adopt whatever area they want. It might be somebody out for a walk in

the neighborhood, it might be a family, it is a city wide initiative and it does reach out to all the neighborhoods and the downtown area.

Alderman DeVries stated I apologize if I didn't catch this earlier is there going to be signage similar to the state program on state highways or some sort of recognition?

Mr. Thomas replied it was our thought process that perhaps after you've proven your commitment to the area after say perhaps six months a sign would be erected that would indicate the area sponsored by the name of the person or the group and that would be a way of them getting some recognition for what they've done.

Alderman DeVries stated fabulous...thank you, good idea.

Ms. Angel stated I just want to add that on the signage there has been much discussion on what the sign would look like so this may be the sign, this may not be the sign.

Alderman DeVries stated we thank you for your efforts.

Chairman Shea called upon Alderman Osborne.

Alderman Osborne stated getting back to the signs it's not necessarily going to be that size, is that true? Depending on the area you're talking about.

Ms. Angel stated right that's a typical sign.

Alderman Osborne asked what would the cost be approximately for the businesses to adopt-a-spot, do you have any other put together. In their own minds that's advertisement that is what this is all about for them, what would it cost them approximately for let's say Valley Street up by Walgreen's?

Ms. Angel replied at this point if this is adopting a spot to clean up the litter there isn't any charge.

Alderman Osborne stated I thought you were talking about putting shrubs and trees and so on and so forth.

Ms. Angel stated as I said there are two parts to this program...Phase I and there's going to be some places targeted...the city is not going to provide landscaping so there may be some areas that its litter and there would be no charge for that. As far as the pricing for landscaping that's still being worked out.

Mr. Thomas stated I think what would happen is that the locations would be identified and the Chamber would solicit quotes, bids or whatever from the contractor on an annual basis, that contractor may do several different locations that are sponsored by different businesses.

Alderman Osborne stated I think it's a very good idea as far as the business aspect of it because a lot of these businesses like to put their money into advertising. I can't think of a better way than to do it this way but I'm sure they're going to want to know what the cost is but I think it will be a great thing.

Chairman Shea stated are there any other questions from the Aldermanic Board. I'll let the Mayor come back and take over.

Mayor Baines asked do you want to continue.

Mayor Baines stated thank you very much.

5. Presentation by the Airport Director regarding the law enforcement contract at Manchester Airport.

Mr. Kevin Dillon, Airport Director, stated I just want to take a quick minute to update you on the status of the law enforcement contract at the airport. As I think most of you are aware the airport is required to provide law enforcement services under our operating certificate from the federal government. Essentially that law enforcement requirement is to support the security screening checkpoints at the airport...we have three screening checkpoints but in some points we do use some additional law enforcement personnel for other security services at the airport under the airport management's discretion. Right now, the contract value on an annual basis for the law enforcement contract is about \$1.9 million that's funded each year by airport revenues. The status of the current contract is that we're in the last option year that we have, the contract expires June 30, 2006. Moving forward at this point the airport plans to issue an RFP for a 3-year contract. Why we've selected a 3-year contract is because Rockingham County which provides the law enforcement services and which is most likely the only bidder that we'll have on the contract has said that they will sign nothing less than a 3-year contract...that's reduced from a 5-year period that they were first asking for. Why I say that we're only going to most likely receive one response even though we're going to put out an RFP is because of the unique nature of each jurisdiction throughout the state. The only ones that have jurisdiction to provide police services at the airport would be any sheriff department in the state. While the other sheriff's departments outside of Rockingham County have indicated no desire to provide this service that's the reason why we'll be issuing the RFP, it would not be considered a sole source situation but as I said I believe they're going to be the only ones to respond. I'm frequently asked why the state police cannot bid. Under state law the state police need to be invited in by the municipalities, the area that they

would serve, so in this case they would need to be invited in by both Manchester and Londonderry Police Departments. Londonderry can't provide the service because the airport straddles the Manchester/Londonderry line and that's the same reason why Manchester Police Department can't provide the service so I think you can see why we're limited to that one bid. I guess the airport continues though to have a number of concerns with the sole source situation. Naturally, in a sole source situation management responsiveness of the contractor is sometimes not there as well as there are obvious financial issues associated with a sole source situation. We constantly have to consider whether we're getting the best price. Our concern is really grounded financially in two areas. First, for fiscal year 2005 the total amount of coverage at the airport that we received 26% of it was done on an overtime basis. So, we have an awful lot of concerns the way Rockingham County is staffing/providing personnel at the airport. At 26% of overtime related to \$349,000 of cost to the airport. On top of that we have a concern in terms of how the contract is structured to compensate Rockingham County for their services, their profit if you will under the contract. The way it's structured is they get 10% on top of the total payroll costs. So, when you sit back and you analyze that you quickly realize it's in the best interest of Rockingham County to staff the contract with as much overtime as possible. These are obvious questions that I'm sure or obvious issues that lead to the question as to why wouldn't we eliminate those provisions of the contract. Well, again, the sole source arrangement has made it very difficult for us to do that. The fact that we only have one bidder really leaves us in a no leverage position, however, I have met with the sheriff and the county commissioners out in Rockingham County, I have urged them to consider a restructuring of the contract, I've set a goal for the sheriff to reduce that overtime from 26% to 10% although you're probably going to find it very difficult to do that but that is the goal that we've set as well as I've talked to the county about the potential of switching away from the 10% override and switch it to a fixed cost per hour. Again, it remains a costly and difficult situation for the airport but we do plan to press Rockingham County pretty hard to try and get a more equitable balance under the contract. But, at this juncture, because of where we stand in terms of state law for policing jurisdictions. We really have no alternative but to go out with this RFP and as I said probably we'll be left with Rockingham County. So, I just wanted to update you as to where we're at and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Alderman O'Neil asked, Kevin, why is it over the years we only continue to get one bidder for this service?

Mr. Dillon replied again I think it's a difficult situation. Anytime it's a contractual service providing law enforcement services I think other sheriff's departments have a difficult time if they don't have proximity to the airport so the only other logical sheriff department to provide the service would be Hillsborough County and Hillsborough County has just indicated that they don't want to be involved in it, I think there's a concern in the contractual situation at the end of the contract...what do you do with your personnel that you've hired to work under this contract so the fact that that always exists out there.

Alderman O'Neil asked what have other airports in the region on the size of Manchester across the country done...there's been a lot of changes since 9/11 but any idea what other airports are doing?

Mr. Dillon replied across the board there's really kind of a mix and match at other airports. Airports that fall totally within a jurisdiction will typically have the police department from that jurisdiction provide the service but there are many airports that exist like Manchester Airport where they straddle different municipalities or they serve as independent airport authorities and in those cases some of them have their own police departments or others have contracts.

Alderman O'Neil asked have you considered any of those options?

Mr. Dillon replied certainly in the past we have taken a look at trying to develop additional options for additional departments to bid but we've also considered the potential of the airport establishing it's own police jurisdiction.

Alderman O'Neil asked does current state law restrict the ability to have options with this?

Mr. Dillon replied yes it does. There is no other option right now under state law that exists.

Alderman O'Neil asked do you know if other airports have done studies and again I know since 9/11 it kind of changes weekly probably...security and law enforcement...have other airports around the region, the country done studies to figure out the best way to go instead of continuing to address one particular tract or avenue that you can go down?

Mr. Dillon replied I guess I'm familiar with one situation that I know that has been studied out in Los Angeles. There was significant issue as to whether or not the City of Los Angeles should provide the policing services or should the airport provide the services...a pretty extensive study was conducted out of Los Angeles but I haven't heard anything.

Alderman O'Neil asked has the staff ever considered that...an option to do a study?

Mr. Dillon replied sure it's something that we would consider.

Alderman O'Neil stated that's something, your Honor, I think that...I don't think that we need to make a motion and direct the airport to do but I think that it's something whether it's outside the terminal, inside the terminal, the perimeter of the airport...it changes regularly in the aviation world and I think it's something I would strongly recommend that maybe Kevin should take a look at doing, maybe with some support of this Board.

Mr. Dillon stated I think if it's the desire of the Board for the airport to conduct this study we're certainly capable of going forward and doing that so if the Board...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I don't know if a motion is in order to direct but at least I'd make a motion that we strongly recommend that the airport consider it.

Mayor Baines asked would that be helpful?

Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman DeVries stated I would echo the sentiments that we do something to look at a way to control the cost for the airport and I probably have a little bit of a selfish reason as we end the era of federal funding for soundproofing in the city and we are getting to the end of that program we are going to be looking at a program that is going to be funded by the airport. If we could free up another three hundred odd thousand dollars today and over time possibly unnecessary that's money that could be going each year into soundproofing of our homes so I think the southend is selfishly saying that absolutely we should study this, we should look to see if other options can be developed, that the cost containment can happen. It's perfect timing and I hope we can do that expeditiously.

Alderman Gatsas stated speaking of soundproofing I know that Ward 2 is in that flight plan and residents of Ward 2 are wondering if some of that soundproofing is ever going to make it up there.

Mr. Dillon replied to answer that question very directly...we are planning at the end of the calendar year 2006 to go out with a new master plan for the airport. As part of that master plan process we will be required to take a look at the soundproofing contours and as you know it has always been my effort to try to expand those as much as possible so hopefully this time they will expand it to Ward 2.

Mayor Baines stated once you get beyond Rosement Avenue you can consider Ward 2.

Alderman O'Neil stated let me understand this premium...have you always paid for that?

Mr. Dillon replied the 10% has been there since the beginning of the contract. Again, that's not unusual to see profit of a contract paid that way, it's a problem though when you have no control over who the contractor is, that you don't have options for selection because there is no motivating factor on the part of Rockingham to manage the way a contractor...if I don't do a good job I may not get the contract next time. So, again, I am not here tonight to say that Rockingham County purposely billed overtime hours but quite frankly these are public funds even though their airport dollars they're still public funds and I think it does send the wrong message to the public under this contract as to how we're monitoring use of those

funds and how we're spending them, so I think it's important to work with Rockingham County if they are going to be the contractor that we have to deal with to get these dollars. I think it's in their best interest because I think it certainly gives the wrong perception as to what Rockingham County is about in terms of about in trying to have public trust.

Alderman O'Neil asked do you expect the contract is going to be the same or with new rules and regulations and laws from the federal government, expanded duties going to happen or anything under that?

Mr. Dillon replied right now the basic coverage I'm anticipating will be maintained...we're trying to maintain that coverage certainly just to keep the cost of the contract down. The one thing that is under consideration under this contract is in February of this year we will most likely go into the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Canine Program. We have the option of having Rockingham County handle those canines or handling the canines directly at the airport. So, that would be...if there's any growth in terms of types of work under the contract related to canines.

Alderman O'Neil asked if you did it would you have to hire airport police officers then, how does that work, or have they not figured out?

Mr. Dillon replied we don't have the authority to hire police officers, we don't have the authority under state law for a police jurisdiction. We do have the ability and it is one of the things we're looking at at handling the canines with civilian canine handlers. There are a number of airports...

Alderman O'Neil stated I hate to interrupt you but that's legal.

Mr. Dillon replied yes. Under the TSA Canine Program it does not stipulate that a canine handler has to be a police official. It has to be someone who is trained in handling canines. For example, Orlando, Las Vegas, Honolulu already use civilian canine handlers.

Alderman O'Neil asked is that something that you've looked at?

Mr. Dillon replied it's something we're considering at this point, we're going to have to make that decision sometime in the early part of next year as to how we want to handle the canine program.

Alderman O'Neil stated if it's in-house we have a little more control over it.

Mr. Dillon stated absolutely. I think any of the issues that relate over time under Rockingham County hopefully we would control much better if it were our own persons.

Alderman O'Neil stated that as part of my earlier motion I hope that we encourage the airport to explore to help control some of the costs down there.

Alderman Roy stated I concur with Alderman O'Neil. Kevin, the two closest Police Departments are Manchester and Londonderry and you mentioned that state law prohibits Manchester having jurisdiction in Londonderry and Londonderry having jurisdiction in Manchester...could expand on that?

Mr. Dillon stated that's correct. Right now, Londonderry is not authorized on a regular basis to provide police services to Manchester and vice-versa for Manchester and Londonderry. There are Mutual Aid Agreements that exist...the airport has a Mutual Aid Agreement right now with those police departments. We have Mutual Aid Agreements with fire departments to support our fire department. Those departments couldn't even agree if they wanted to get together and agree I'll let you come in or I'll let the other one come in that they're prohibited from doing that at this point. I've asked the Attorney General's office to look at that issue but the initial reaction that I'm getting is no, it's allowed on a mutual aid basis but on a long-term contractual arrangement they would not be able to do that.

Alderman Roy stated I would encourage the City Solicitor to support your efforts with the Attorney General's if to do nothing than to get two more potential bidders on that contract...we are different than any other airport in the state so if state law could support you I believe myself and my colleagues would help you with that.

Mayor Baines stated there's a motion on the floor and a second...

Alderman O'Neil stated may I just include the encouragement to explore civilians...I guess that would be part of a study.

Mayor Baines stated with the concurrence of the second yes...called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Baines advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Informational – to be Received and Filed

- B.** Communication from Leo Bernier, City Clerk, submitting the official results of the Municipal General Election held on November 8, 2005 and also the official results from the recounts held on November 19, 2005 for Ward 2, 6, 11 and 12.

- C. Communication from Gerard Fleury, Executive Director of the Manchester Employees' Contributory Retirement System, outlining Arthur Beaudry's accomplishments during his tenure as a Retirement Board Trustee.
- D. Minutes of a meeting of the Mayor's Utility Coordinating Committee held on November 16, 2005.
- E. Minutes of a meeting of the MTA Commission held on October 25, 2005 and the Financial and Ridership Reports for the month of October 2005.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- G. Communication from Stephanie Lewry, Executive Director of Intown Manchester, requesting a special appropriation not to exceed \$1,000.00 for repair of electrical circuits for holiday lighting on Elm Street.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

- I. Recommending that the 1st quarter FY2006 write-off list for the accounts receivable module be approved and further that the Fleet Bank, So. Willow EDP LLC (Stop N Shop) and CP Management accounts be forwarded to the Solicitor's office for collection.
(Unanimous vote)
- J. Advising that it has accepted the city's unaudited Monthly Financial Statements for the four months ended October 31, 2005 for FY2006 submitted by the Finance Department, and is forwarding same to the Board for informational purposes.
(Unanimous vote)
- K. Advising that it has accepted the following Finance Department reports:
 - a) department legend;
 - b) open invoice report over 90 days by fund;
 - c) open invoice report all invoices for interdepartmental billings only;
 - d) open invoice report all invoices due from the School Dept. only;
 - e) listing of invoices submitted to City Solicitor for legal determination; and
 - f) accounts receivable summary.and is forwarding same to the Board for informational purposes.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

- L. Recommending that Ordinances:
 "An Ordinance amending the Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding a new Section 32.104 Department of Senior Services."

“An Ordinance amending the Ordinances of the City of Manchester by amending Sections 32.105, 32.106, 32.107, 32.108, 32.109 and 32.110 substituting language of ‘Senior’ for ‘Elderly’.”
ought to pass.
(*Unanimous vote*)

- M.** Recommending that Ordinances:
“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Health Assistant) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Building Automation Specialist) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”
ought to pass.
(*Unanimous vote*)

- N.** Recommending that Ordinance:
“Amending Chapter 70: Motor Vehicles and Traffic by deleting Sections 70.61-70.65 dealing with snow removal and amending Chapter 71: Snow Emergency Regulations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”
ought to pass and layover.
(*Unanimous vote*)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

- P.** Advising that it has approved Ordinance:
“Amending Sections 33.026 (Cemetery Supervisor) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”
providing for changes in class specification, which do not change the title of a position and do not provide for any changes in salary grade of such position and is forwarding same to the Board for adoption.
(*Aldermen Shea, Sysyn, DeVries and Forest voted yea; Alderman Garrity voted nay.*)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

- Q.** Advising that it has approved the following with regard to the request from the NH Department of Transportation to purchase city land for the proposed Manchester Airport Access Road:
- Accepted recommendation of the Board of Assessors to seek an outside appraisal through the Airport;
 - Unless otherwise ordered by BMA requested the Airport Director to gather information and conduct negotiations as may be appropriate for report back to the Committee on Lands and Buildings; and
 - Requested reports from Planning and Tax to determine whether or not the property is surplus to City needs.
- The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at a later date.
(*Unanimous vote*)

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- S.** Recommending that a request from Intown Manchester to allow free parking after 6 PM on Thursday evenings during the month of December be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

- T.** Recommending that regulations governing standing, stopping, parking and operations of vehicles be adopted and put into effect when duly advertised and posted.
(Unanimous vote)

- U.** Advising that it has approved expenditures of approximately \$8,000 from the 2006 Parking Facilities Fund for maintenance punch list items at the Victory Parking Facility as noted herein.

The Committee recommends that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen refer funding for the items of concern relating to elevators and building repairs to the 2007 CIP budget process.

The Committee further notes that it has requested Mr. Jerome of Central Parking to report any vandalism immediately to the Police Department and coordinate with Mr. Lolicata and Mr. Ntapalis to insure prompt and proper reporting to Risk Management in the future.

(Aldermen Sysyn, Guinta, Forest and O'Neil voted yea; Alderman Smith was absent.)

- V.** Advising that it has approved up to \$4,300 for pay raises for the employees of the Victory Street Garage. The Committee notes that sufficient funds will be made available in the operating budget.
(Aldermen Sysyn, Forest and O'Neil voted yea; Alderman Guinta opposed; and Alderman Smith was absent.)

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN O'NEIL, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN OSBORNE, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

Ratify and Confirm Poll Conducted

- A.** November 22, 2005 authorizing the recruitment of a new Assessor.
(Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Sysyn, Shea, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest, Lopez and O'Neil voted yea; Aldermen Porter voted nay; Aldermen Osborne and DeVries unavailable.)

Alderman Porter stated I would like to take a moment to explain...I seem to have been the lone ranger on the phone poll about the advertising for filling the Assessor position and the simple reason is having spent over two decades in that office I know that this particular time although it has its busy points is really kind of a breather as we used to call it in the trade and I didn't see the need to rush and get this in the process at this point especially when we were having a meeting on the sixth. However, that's water under the bridge but I simply wanted to explain why I was kind of the as I said the lone ranger on that issue. While we are discussing that area I would like to ask Mr. Nichols to please come up...there are a couple of questions that I have about some articles that were recently in the newspaper.

Mayor Baines called upon Mr. Nichols...while we're doing that why don't we have a motion to confirm this poll.

Alderman Shea moved to ratify and confirm the poll conducted. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Porter stated there seems to be, Tom, a trend coming from the Assessors or in particular in the articles in the paper Sunday and has been going on for a couple of years and some people are almost taking it as a little bit of intimidation that the southend is really going to get hit hard. This has started and it's been repeated on many occasions and once again on Sunday. Have you done a ratio study on sales and assessments in the southend?

Mr. Thomas Nichols, Assessor, replied no.

Alderman Porter asked have you done any analysis of the southend?

Mr. Nichols replied no I haven't.

Alderman Porter asked have you done any analysis on any other section of the city?

Mr. Nichols replied no I haven't.

Alderman Porter asked have you done any ratio study on any part of the city?

Mr. Nichols replied no not yet.

Alderman Porter stated so I guess the question is then how did you arrive at the southend going to bear a substantial burden of increase on the assessments?

Mr. Nichols replied that's not what the articles say.

Alderman Porter stated yes pretty much it is, Tom. I did receive a call from a real estate broker today that mentioned that they had somebody who was looking at property but at this point they were a little bit reluctant to look in the southend because of the uncertainty of the taxes based on your comments. Now, I think that as a member of the Board of Assessors and I think a part of the reason I voted against the advertising for a third Assessor at this time is I think that right now the Assessor's office is basically like a ship without a rudder due to the tragic situation with Steve Tellier and it's understandable. I would have thought that more important that replacing the third Assessor would be to name an acting department head...that didn't happen...I'm not going to make any kind of a nomination, I wouldn't want to embarrass anybody because I don't know that the Board would be for that. But, I think, Tom, that the comments that come from the Board of Assessors have to be done jointly. Now, I made a point to call Mr. Hurley from Vision Appraisal yesterday to ask if possibly they had done some sales analysis for you to come up with any kind of conclusions and he said no. They're in the data collection mode right now and I won't say a long ways off but

substantial time away from being able to put any values on anything. I think that you have to understand that you as an Assessor when you make comments in the paper people listen and they're going to take it the way they're said and this issue about the southend being whacked and bear an undisproportionate burden of any increase has gone on for too long.

Mr. Nichols stated Paul I did not make that statement. It does not say that in the article.

Alderman Porter stated that's enough that I have to say but I think that what's happened is we had a mayor that ran about taxes, a mayor-elect that ran on taxes, I think the Board of Aldermen has done everything that we can do to keep the tax increase at a minimum and we have people in this city right now based on that article who are very much afraid that their taxes are going to go through the roof. The southend has a number of people who are on fixed incomes and they're worried about keeping their homes and I don't think any statements should come from the Assessors office pertaining to value until the revaluation company who we are paying \$1.2 million for makes those statements.

Mr. Nichols stated the article does not assess value as far as Alderman Porter is suggesting. All it says is that what the sales are in the City of Manchester right now. They're not saying that that's what the assessments are going to be because we've got another six months into the year before we have to finish.

Mayor Baines stated I think Alderman Porter's comments are well-taken. I'm not sure that anybody should be making comments until the values are in and people have accurate information because I received about 16 phone calls from my friends and neighbors in my ward scared as a result of that article looking at the kind of increases that people are anticipating and it did scare people without facts being there and I think that's the only point that's being made this evening.

Alderman Garrity stated I also received some calls. The people are scared. It was mentioned that the southend is going to basically take a hit. I wasn't surprised by the article because the former Chairman said the same thing way back in April that the southend was going to take the brunt, a hit of this Board publicly and I have always asked how do you come to that determination...I can't get an answer, but I would just hope that the southend is not going to be treated unfairly or is targeted by any evaluation team of anything like that.

Alderman Porter stated I think what's happened now, Tom, is part of a successful revaluation and I think after when Mr. Hurley has an opportunity to say a few words...part of the success of a revaluation is the acceptance of the general public that they are being treated fairly. There have been too many comments coming from the Assessor's office about the southend...people are scared...you may not realize it but that's the result of your comments and I think that before any comments are made in the paper...was this done in collaboration with Mr. Hamilton?

Mr. Nichols replied Mr. Hamilton wasn't around, he was in Florida.

Alderman Porter stated then the best comment is no comment and I think that in the future refer all issues to the revaluation company, they're skilled at public relations, they know how to handle it and it's quite obvious that you don't.

Alderman DeVries stated this was difficult for all of us as Aldermen because as everybody has said before our constituents were scared by the article, however, it was intended to take on the front page was received that without a doubt the determination has been made that the southend will not be fairly treated in the revaluation and that if a determination had already been made that their values were going up greater than the rest of the city...that was the take of everybody that has read that article and spoken back to us. I think we have kicked this around enough tonight and I just hope that this is the end of a public hearing before the values are in, that the facts are in and then we determine where the values of the properties in the city fall.

Alderman Forest stated I just wanted to comment...I don't believe we should be chastising any city employee or anything else for comments that were made in the newspaper. We've had comments in the newspaper that were not even our comments and I think we should have talked or someone should have talked to Mr. Nichols about the comment. I don't think we should be discussing things that are in the newspaper, they're not always correct, they don't always say what we say so how do you expect *The Union Leader* or anybody else to make a comment from Mr. Nichols. They sell newspapers, they sell business, they like to scare people and I don't think we should be chastising Mr. Nichols for something that was in the newspaper. If you want to discuss it I think maybe you ought to go and sit down with Mr. Nichols in his office and not in a public forum.

Alderman Gatsas stated I remember a few months ago particular Aldermen on this Board were seriously concerned about a total revaluation because how it was going to affect their neighborhoods and how they might be affected in a detrimental way versus what other parts of the city were going to be affected. I remember those Aldermen and I remember those Aldermen making those comments, so I take you back to your own comments when we were talking about a total revaluation in this city so what Mr. Nichols said was no different than was some Board members said and I think we all understand who we are. So, I'll leave that subject alone.

Alderman Porter stated I kind of assumed that Alderman Gatsas has to be referring to Ward 6. I will assume it because you continue to look at me which is fine. My point was with the general city revaluation. There are neighborhoods all over the city, properties that are under assessed will be brought up to proper value, properties that are over assessed will be brought down and a number of them will remain the same. At no time did this Alderman mention

any particular neighborhood about a revaluation...people in general are a little bit concerned but the southend continually has been told that they are under assessed and they are going to bear a disproportionate increase in the taxes and it's unfair.

Mayor Baines stated in all due respect to everybody around...Alderman Garrity is in the ward, we're in the ward...we did get a reaction to what happened and that is the reality and when something is in the newspaper it becomes part of general discussion so I don't think you can dismiss it and I've never been the subject of any inactive reporting so I'm not exactly sure what you're talking about.

Alderman Osborne stated from what I understand it's supposed to be a third is going up, a third is going down and a third is staying the same...this is what I've read a lot of and I can't see how a third can be all down the southend, it doesn't make sense to me.

Mayor Baines stated you're here this evening would you like to come up and generally address this issue that we've been talking about.

Mr. Nichols stated, your Honor, may I say just one thing?

Mayor Baines replied sure.

Mr. Nichols stated I'm sorry that the article came out the way it did. I did not pinpoint the southend in that article. I said there were pockets all over the city.

Mayor Baines stated thank you, Tom.

Alderman Roy stated while he's coming up to the podium may I have him address one issue.

Mayor Baines stated would you please identify yourself and what your role is with the company that's doing the revaluation.

Mr. Michael Hurley stated I'm the Project Manager for the revaluation division appraisal. As far as percentages go...percentages are really an after-the-fact. What we do is we just put values based on the current market, that's all we look at...come up with our ratios, we get to 100% market value and those are the values. Once that's done then you can start running certain sections of town to find out what a percentage is. So, there's no way us to say this end is going up 2%, this end 20% or double...there's no way to know. Once we do the analysis which is probably going to start next February or March and the contract says we have to have the values to the Assessor's by June 1st then we'll have an idea of what a percentage is. Like I said it's just after-the-fact number that let's you know the northend is going up "X", the southend is going up "X"...it has no play in the numbers that we come up with.

Alderman Osborne stated it doesn't mean that it's all going to the southend whatever percentage it is...it is distributed throughout the city.

Mr. Hurley stated you mentioned before that you'd heard there's a theory out there...a third, a third and a third...that's just a theory based on if a budget was to stay the same which is what usually happens. If you budget should go up or go down that's going to change the percentages...that's just a theory that's been bandied about in the appraisal world for years.

Alderman Osborne stated an overall percentage.

Mr. Hurley stated right.

Mayor Baines stated there's no basis in fact of those percentages and I think that needs to be clearly stated because in the article it did state almost like it was factual...it's a third, a third and a third...that's sometimes a myth and folklore in the industry as opposed to reality...people need to understand that as well.

Alderman Roy stated the revaluation...the discussion of a third, a third and a third is great but the assessments are basically April 1st market value. Have you looked at the last 15 years in Manchester so that you could give a...the city was at this point in the real estate market in 2001 and is at this point now and I hate to put you on the spot I didn't know this conversation was coming up but as you know real estate is cyclical, it has its peaks and its valleys. Do you have the knowledge of what's gone on for the past ten years that you could discuss what happened in 2001...what changes have happened in the city between 2001 and 2006.

Mr. Hurley stated have I looked at it, no. Like I said we're going to use the last...depending on whether we have the right amount of sales maybe the last year of sales you can go back two years...I will be able...the numbers you have in the system are based on the last revaluation...we put that in in what we call an assessment history section so I will have those numbers so that I could do that...that's where the percentage that we're talking about, the last revaluation you're at "X" percent in what particular neighborhood...here's the new number...now the new number says that particular neighborhood went up "X"...but I haven't looked at the history and I wouldn't because I'm only concerned with the current market.

Alderman Lopez stated on a new subject...how does somebody get a hold of you locally to talk to the revaluation company?

Mr. Hurley replied right now they would go through the Assessor's office.

Alderman Lopez asked why?

Mr. Hurley replied because right now we're in a collection phase where pretty much everyone's in the field. We have a crew chief who goes out and checks all the work of the data collection researchers performing the data collection guidelines and the information on the cards correct.

Alderman Lopez stated I thought that in your contract that you would have somebody locally that we could talk to.

Mr. Hurley replied I'm locally placed.

Alderman Lopez stated I've heard that people are told to call Massachusetts.

Mr. Hurley stated that would be news to me. They wouldn't have reason to call yet until we send out the callback letters. We were going to send them out December 27th...what we call a callback notice...what that notice is is that we've tried to get into the interior of your house and we haven't been able to and we give them either an 800 number or an 888 number to call and set up an appointment...that first batch will be going out at the end of the month but we haven't contacted any taxpayers at this point.

Alderman Lopez asked what percentage of houses have you inspected so far?

Mr. Hurley replied we've inspected...as far as interiors...we've done about...we've measured approximately 92% of the residential properties...just going around the outside and right now we've gotten inside to about 40%.

Alderman Lopez stated you think you're going to be able to accomplish all of those things in the contract by February.

Mr. Hurley stated what we're going to do is we're going to send out...based on other towns I've done the last couple of years we'll probably get anywhere from 40-50% response to the letters for inspection. The city being so large what we're going to do is we're going to send them out in batches of approximately 4,000. The first 4,000 will go out December 27th and then every two weeks after that we'll send out another 4,000 or whatever the number is for the houses that we didn't inspect. Right now what we're doing is we have people working Saturdays and we have them on the days when it's pouring and you can't measure...we have them going out with all the cards we haven't gotten into and trying to make inspections so that 4,000 number could change...whatever house we didn't get into will be the final number.

Alderman Lopez stated one last question...when an individual goes to the house and does the measurement does he leave any type of notice that he's been at that house, they couldn't get in so they can call a local number to get an appointment?

Mr. Hurley replied no we don't. We've learned from the past...we used to have what we called "yellow door hangers" we used to leave on the doors but what happens is you're announcing to the public that no ones home so we started getting a lot of calls from taxpayers saying hey I don't want you announcing to the world that we're not home I don't want you leaving anything on the door. So, in the last four to five years what we've done is just gone to the letter format instead of leaving a door hanger.

Mayor Baines stated stress why it's important that people allow them to go into the house, why is that so important?

Mr. Hurley replied it's very important as far as equitability to make sure you're assessment is fair. You don't want us to have to estimate. Now the one advantage we do have is that we used existing information, which is a great idea because you're constantly cleansing the information on that card. So, all we're doing is we're picking up mistakes or something that might have been estimated during the last revaluation. If you don't let us in it could be an estimate. We may go out there and say, for example, we have a house we don't get into it and there are curtains on the basement windows...we might assume because we didn't get in that there's a finished basement...there may not be, but we'd rather estimate so that we don't miss anything, it's always easier to come down than it is to make sure that we had estimated to the best as possible.

Alderman O'Neil stated this may not sound like a big deal but I think it is...Alderman Lopez asked a question about a number to call. Would it be an issue to create a local phone number?

Mr. Hurley replied no, not at all. Right now what we're doing is we've got the crew chief Charlie Nichols is on the job every day and if the assessor's or someone brings a note that says so-and-so is heading to Florida or so-and-so is leaving or they have a reason where they'd like to get us in now we can get it to Charlie and Charlie has a right hand man that he is going to send out and say okay go ahead and do that property.

Alderman O'Neil stated I just personally think there's a comfort level with people knowing that there'd be a local number...an 800 or 888 number could mean it's going to Anchorage, Alaska for all they know...I hope that's something you consider. The expense has got to be minimal and I think it would be a comfort especially for the elderly in this city. If people want to make an appointment how can they do that to make sure that their home to allow an appraiser in the house?

Mr. Hurley replied what we're going to do is part of that batch the 4,000 I mentioned before is it's going to have a number and dates to call. So, when they call...say you call okay you're going to have the lot, map and pin number on that letter and name and address and data entry people which is in Northboro, Massachusetts will say okay these are the dates we'll be available and go through a list of days we have available...have multiple options.

Alderman Guinta asked would you share what you do in other municipalities to educate the public about this process and procedure. I suspect other municipalities go through the same concern in terms of valuation and how that's going to impact their tax rates. Is it standard that there is an educational process that occurs beyond what's happened in the city so far?

Mr. Hurley replied sure in a format like this when we have the actual numbers in we could do a powerpoint presentation...here's what we found, here's what the total value is, here's the new values...we could do as we talked about earlier certain parts of the city...we've done stuff where we could go to a local chamber of commerce gathering or stuff like that to educate people and probably better closer around value time because right now you could ask me a hundred questions on value and I'll be I don't know I haven't looked at it yet. So, once we get to around April/May time when we have a firmer grasp of the numbers.

Alderman Guinta stated I think it's something we should consider as a Board because there is still...there has been concern for the last six months and that's going to continue but at the very least we do want to ensure that do understand this is a fair and equitable process and for those who don't understand the process I would like to at least have the opportunity and I don't know if we undertake this and have a couple of town hall style meetings that we should consider taking up to allow the members of the public to ask questions because there are questions that people do have and I think it's probably easier to ask that in a format where the public is invited. So, I hope that we as a Board take that matter up.

Mayor Baines stated I think you should also have the company come in periodically over the next four or five months to do something like this as well and also the assessor's using community television and I think we did that the last time with the assessor's on just talking about what was going on...it's a continually education. Let me ask you a theoretically question. If you live in a neighborhood where your values, your present assessed values say is \$100,000 and you know for a fact that houses on your street are selling for two to two-and-a-half times that and it's common knowledge because people do watch that...is it reasonable to expect that when you look at the values on April 1st and again we'll use the \$100,000 scenario because that is a very common number in the neighborhood that Alderman Garrity and I live and we know that houses are now selling for \$225,000, \$250,000...is it reasonable to expect that the values are going to go up to \$225,000-250,000, is that reasonable to expect?

Mr. Hurley replied it's very reasonable yes.

Mayor Baines stated I think that's what people need to realize in their neighborhoods out there and I think that's important for people to understand.

Alderman DeVries stated just to follow up on that...that doesn't mean that your taxes are going to automatically go up one-and-a-half times and I think that's the important piece that is often misunderstood. Just a tidbit of information I never realized was one of the reasons why you might want to have an interior inspection of your home and many people are fearful about that and I think I understand why because they feel that they have been treated unfairly and have had to go through the process of an appeal because they did in past revaluations allow the interior inspection...that doesn't mean that that's the process that's going to happen this time but what this particular constituent of mine indicated is that they had about ten years ago gone through a process where they pulled a demolition permit which I didn't even realize existed through the Building Department to undo a finished basement meaning that it went back to raw space and they had assumed their taxes had proportionately reflected that they had less finished living space...that never occurred so they had been paying taxes until the team actually came through with that interior inspection and realized that the card that they had been paying on their taxes did not match the actual property that they had today. So, it's not always a negative thing. Sometimes you do as you tried to indicate there is value for the homeowner and making the adjustments are not always upwards, they can be downwards as well. Thank you.

Alderman Osborne stated I just have a couple of questions here. How do you feel about how the market is right now, do you feel that it's about level, do you think it's dropping? In general...other localities.

Mr. Hurley replied based on the last two towns although significantly different than this...one being a waterfront community and one being a tiny rural community it seems like it's still stable...making still going up a little but there are two different towns and not cities.

Mayor Baines asked did you company do Orford?

Mr. Hurley replied no.

Alderman Osborne asked what would happen as Alderman DeVries' was saying...if your property is worth \$100,000 and you know you wouldn't sell it for less than \$200,000 and say you appraised it at \$200,000 and the market fell about 20% between now and spring, what would happen then?

Mr. Hurley replied it's based on April first.

Alderman Porter asked how far back do you go for sales? When you comes up with the sales dates...I'm assuming you're using market approach for residential primarily, right?

Mr. Hurley replied right...this being a date of April 1, 2006.

Alderman Porter asked what timeframe are you using for comps?

Mr. Hurley replied we'd go back to April 1, 2004 but I found in the last two years we've only had to go back just one year so we may have enough sales to go back to April 1, 2005.

Alderman Porter asked how quickly can you respond...I don't think 20% would happen between now and April but with a trending downward how quickly can you respond as of the April 1st date...the values will be sent out sometime in May or thereabouts is that correct?

Mr. Hurley replied I think the values go for certification for the towns and cities accept as June 1st and I believe the hearings and everything else have to be completed by August 1st.

Alderman Porter stated the other area I would like to just briefly touch on is a potential shift. I am convinced that there is going to be a shift from commercial to residential...to what extent that remains to be seen. I think that there was a comment made in the paper by Mr. Nichols that he didn't agree that there would be any shift and I don't know what he based that on. When will you be in position to know what that shift is going to look like because I think it will be important particularly in the budget process to know that?

Mr. Hurley replied you can get a pretty good idea probably June 1st when we present the values...then you'd be able to get a good idea where the shift is. Now, remembering that that is not complete because you still have the hearing process it could change a little bit but it will give you a pretty good indicator by June 1st.

Alderman Porter stated my last question would be are you shooting for 100%, 95% and are you doing the same percentage for each category or stratification of property?

Mr. Hurley replied 100% except that you always try and keep all your strata within 5% of that hundred.

Alderman Roy stated I think a lot of us have said a lot of things on this issue over the past eight months and I just wanted some clarification from the revaluation company. If a property goes from \$100,000 in the 2001 assessment to the current market value whether it be \$220,000 or \$250,000 if every property that at that time was assessed at \$100,000 goes to \$250,000 or the current market value then you have a fair assessment and that has no bearing on anything but taxed base, is that an accurate statement...we're talking about city wide fairness here. You're timing of the real estate market has more to do with fairness in

revaluations...markets always adjust itself day-to-day. A reassessment is a snapshot on April 1st that hasn't had another snapshot since April 1, 2001 so you're never going to get every part of the city at a peak and every part of the city at a valley...it's taking that snapshot at the fairest time and there are those that have said that the 2001 evaluation was extremely unfair to the northend including Wards 1 and 2. I'm of the opinion now that we are peaking in the real estate market so that we may get across the board fairness which may have a higher impact on those areas that were not fairly assessed in 2001...am I accurate in that statement?

Mr. Hurley replied that's very accurate. One of the other things I'd like to point out when talking about percentages like this is why we'll probably, at a future date, break it down a little by neighborhoods. Even though you say it doubles that doesn't mean that every single property doubles. You might have some that triple, you might have some that don't double...that's just their average. You have to be careful because you don't want everyone to get their tax bill and all of a sudden we said it doubled and then anyone over doubles is going to come flying into us and say whoa...it just may be a market shift in particular pockets throughout the city. We can narrow it down once we get the neighborhoods put on there we can narrow it down to specific sections to get a better idea.

Mayor Baines stated we haven't determined where's it's trickling have we.

Alderman Shea stated we've probably talked all night about this subject which is more hypothetical but the bottom line is as Alderman Lopez just said it doesn't make any difference, it's how we budget the tax money that makes the difference. So, basically, if we come in with a budget that's high we're going to pay high taxes and if we come in with a budget that's low we're going to pay low taxes. So no matter how much the property is assessed for the bottom line is if we're frugal in how we budget we will not increase the taxes as this year we only had an increase of 1.6%, so basically that's the bottom line and we can throw around an assessment...I can tell you I own property in Maine and it didn't go up 100% and it's didn't go up 200%, it went up 300%. So, if we watch the bottom line and we watch how we budget and we watch how we spend the money that we get can obviously do a lot with a little. As people say we have to make sure that we watch how we budget the money and that's the bottom line and I think you're shaking your head in agreement with that.

Mr. Hurley stated right...our job is just to make sure that the values are equitable.

Mayor Baines interjected and our taxes up in Wells, Maine Alderman Shea doubled...200%. Thank you very much for your presentation.

- F.** Communication from Attorney James Lombardi regarding concerns of residents of Amoskeag Terrace relating to Manchester Place and response from Brian Dacey of Manchester Place, LLC.

Alderman Lopez stated I pulled this item from the agenda and there's a couple of things I'd ask the Board to do. One, is could you send it to the Committee on Traffic for review but in the meantime I would like to see Paul Borek of Economic Development talk to MDC, get an update of the problems in that particular area. Secondly, have a neighborhood meeting and report to the Committee on Traffic so that we have a clear understanding as to what's happening in that particular neighborhoods.

Mayor Baines stated and with some of the other department heads involved as well (i.e., Traffic, Highway, etc.). Paul Borek, so that you understand...tomorrow morning we need you to go immediately to work on this issue so that the neighbors get some answers to some of these questions that keep coming at every meeting and I think they deserve a response from the city.

Alderman Lopez moved to his recommendation. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Smith stated I'm very familiar with the situation and I go along with Alderman Lopez but I really think that communication is very, very essential here and I think the people of Amoskeag Terrace, Manchester Place, the Police Department, Highway and Traffic all get together with the Economic Development Director and meet in a room. From what I understand these people have been waiting seven weeks for a meeting and it's never occurred.

Alderman Guinta stated as a matter of procedure if this is referred to Traffic would that be the next Traffic meeting to take place in January.

Mayor Baines replied yes.

Alderman Lopez stated I think my motion including the department heads as Alderman Smith said would have all of this information and report to the Mayor and then the Traffic Committee in reference to make sure that all the issues have been taken care of. But, in the meantime, we have to slow up the operation as they have to find out the real problems...I think to proceed in this direction it would be best for Paul Borek to get with MDC and maybe go and get all the people together and have a meeting so that you could be there, the Mayor could be there...whatever the case.

Mayor Baines stated what I'd like to see happen...this does not need to drag out a very long period of time. I think this can be done over the next week to ten days...maybe we can get a representative group...four or five people that can represent the views and the concerns and

sit down with Mr. Borek and make sure we have an accurate inventory of all the issues that you're asking to be addressed...that should be able to be done in a short term. I don't think it needs to linger...there may not be final resolutions but these people, I think, can get some answers.

Alderman Guinta stated in the interest of disclosure I live in this neighborhood and I can tell you from experience that the residents have been very, very patient during this whole process and the issues that face the neighborhood now are the same issues that the developers have been aware of for several months. Some have been addressed and honestly some have not and I think it's unfortunate that now that it's at the point where attorneys for both sides are involved in communication with one another I think that probably four major areas (i.e., sidewalk conditions, lighting, cut through traffic and parking availability in the general area). These are all issues and I participated in the earlier meetings as did Mayor Baines with the neighborhood and with the developers a couple of years ago and there were assurances provided that these issues would be addressed in a collaborative manner. Now, I know that the residents have been very patient, have been very willing to work with Brian Dacey and his group as has Brian but my concern now is that the project is wrapping up and it's more of a he said/she said kind of situation and some of these issues will not get ultimately resolved and I think if I had to rank them first and foremost it's the lighting in the garage and the façade and I know that there's limited...and it's unfortunate but I as a resident and my neighbors have to understand that because the way the contract was written there is limited ability in the city's capacity to force changes...that doesn't mean we don't try. But I think that there is a willingness, at least, on the side of the development company to acquiesce to some of the (I think) very basic and reasonable requests. But, I will tell you on the lighting issue I do hope that that's resolved almost immediately because it is to me a quality of life issue in that general area. It is super bright in that neighborhood so that's something...and I did talk with Frank Thomas today and he's been diligent with this and he's talked with Peter Capano but I do hope and would encourage the development team to sit at the table in December to resolve some of these issues. I know that they have financial impacts to the development but in fairness the city did provide several million dollars toward the development and I think at the very least to show good faith on behalf of their willingness not to help this project but for potential future projects that they'd like to participate in I would like to see a reasonable...some of these issues be addressed in a reasonable timeline to me because the neighborhood has been waiting such a long period of time and I would hope that happens in December. Some of the other issues...sidewalk construction...I think because of the temperature that might have to wait...through traffic...I've read this letter and the bottom line is the people who are cutting through are the construction workers...very simple you tell them not to do it. So, I hope that the development company would heed that advice and I think that an educational process for people who are moving in...respecting the neighborhood which I would assume they have every intention of doing...I think would probably minimize that issue and the parking availability I think is something that we need to take up. This is not just Hollis and Kidder Streets anymore it's that whole surrounding area

because of the other businesses that impact it. You've got the school and the expansion in the Brady Sullivan building and KeySpan employees that are impacting that whole area. It's not going to be a short-term issue, I understand that and the members of the Board do understand it but at the very least I do believe that the Board diligently in addressing that first and most important issue of lighting.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

H. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2003 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Thousand Two Hundred Two Dollars and Forty Cents (\$7,202.40) for the FY2003 CIP 215903 Lead Hazard Control Grant Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2006 CIP 214206 Manchester Health Care Access Review Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Twenty Eight Dollars (\$9,709.20) for FY2006 CIP 410706 NH DWI Patrol Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) for FY2006 CIP 411806 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Two Dollars (\$43,862.00) for FY2006 CIP 713106 Trolley Crossing PS Force Main Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) from Contingency to Environmental Protection Division – Chemicals.”

Alderman Lopez asked I need to ask Carol. Is this the time I want to bring in those resolutions or under CIP item 9.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied since you pulled this item you could bring up the item now, I believe it's already been distributed to the Board...it does contain your letter, a resolution and a variety of budget authorizations of which would need to be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Resolution:

“Amending the FY2004, 2005, and 2006 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) for FY2006 CIP 612706 Displaced Employee Homeless Prevention Program.”; and

CIP Budget Authorizations:

612706	Displaced Employee Homeless Prevention Program
710404	Bus Stop Signs – Revision #1-Closeout
510605	Pavilion Installation – Revision #1-Closeout
510705	Summer Concerts & Event Support – Revision #1-Closeout
810005	Computer Network – Revision #1-Closeout
810105	Replace Transit Radio System – Revision #1-Closeout

Alderman Lopez stated a resolution and letter from the Latin American Center was included in the packet for a proposal to the City of Manchester and in working with Bob MacKenzie and there are also people here tonight from the Latin American Center...John Duclos from the Rapid Response Field Coordinator and what I'm trying to do here is to provide funding to make sure that Manchester residents recently and unexpectedly terminated their employment at neighborhood businesses shall not be made homeless...support services to include translation, rental assistance and other assistance as may be necessary. If you look at the bottom of the resolution where the funds are coming from under comments...the Way Home...we're allocating \$25,000 and \$8,000 for services at the Latin American Center and if people in the audience or members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen have any particular questions on it from the correspondence you received.

Alderman Lopez moved to refer all resolutions presented and the budget authorizations to the Committee on Finance. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked explain to me who is going to administer this stuff because I'm looking at a \$2,500 salary...is that for a week, a month, a year?

Alderman Lopez stated I can answer this and we have somebody in the audience too. Funds will be controlled by the Planning Department and the bills would go to the Planning Department who would monitor it. So, we do have people here from Southern NH Services and the Latin American Center.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess I'm looking to ask does the Unemployment Department of the state not have room for filling out unemployment claims...is that not available? My understanding is that the state is certainly extending an awful lot of latitude to making sure that these people are taken care of with interpreters, with rooms for rapid response, for various other issues.

Alderman Lopez asked, your Honor, can we have John Duclos and Southern NH Services and the Latin American Center please come up. While they're coming up here I had a lot of discussions today with Mr. Duclos who is the Field Rapid Response Field Coordinator and with the Latin American Center and I think he can elaborate just a little better than I. The questions that Alderman Gatsas is talking about for the additional funds that we want to

allocate to the Latin American Center...Hector Velez, Helen Spooner could probably tell you why and it was backed up by John Duclos.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated could we just ask you to identify yourselves for the record as you speak, thank you.

Mr. John Duclos stated I'm the Rapid Response Coordinator working out of the Department of Resources and Economic Development.

Mr. Hector Velez stated I am a resident at 269 Central Street here in Manchester and I'm an Advisory Board member to the Latin American Center.

Ms. Lillye Ramos-Spooner stated I am the Chair of the Latin American Center.

Alderman Gatsas stated Mr. Duclos if my memory serves me correct we had this same economic tragedy at JacPac. My understanding was that you were in the lead in that position and received federal funds from the Federal Department of Labor to do exactly the things we're talking about. Is that not true?

Mr. Duclos replied there is a difference in between the layoffs at CCT and at JacPac. At JacPac we had ample notification from the employer, the employees had 60 days of severance pay...they received their vacation pay and we worked out a process of transition...that's not possible with CCT...the company closed the doors, the employees were shut out. There's also other differences...yes, you're correct. We had a national emergency grant that came from the federal government for JacPac, we do not have one for CCT. We are expecting...the company did file a petition or a request for Trade Act Assistance and the feds have about 45 days to answer that request. We think that there will be some...I think there's going to be a good possibility that we'll be certified under the Trade Act but in the short run we need some assistance for the dislocated workers.

Alderman Gatsas asked how much did you file or what kind of a grant were you looking for from the federal government?

Mr. Duclos replied the Workforce Opportunities Council is the one that applied for JacPac and I don't know what the numbers were.

Alderman Gatsas asked do you know if they've applied yet for the one at CCT?

Mr. Duclos replied it is my understanding that no there was no National Emergency Grant application in for CCT. I think the reason for that is that we're waiting for the feds to rule on the Petition for Trade Act.

Alderman Gatsas asked how much is that and when do we expect that?

Mr. Duclos replied the Trade Act Certification would allow the Department of Employment Security to provide a lot of additional benefits to the employees. It is not within my purview to make recommendations as far as National Emergency Grant...that would be under the Workforce Opportunity Council.

Alderman Gatsas stated I'm looking at the funds that we're looking to expend from the city. I don't have a problem as we did in the disaster case in the western part of the state helping communities and obviously helping employees but I would think that there are federal funds coming that we would be reimbursed at the city level.

Mr. Duclos stated in my estimation there are no federal funds that are coming for the type of assistance that's needed immediately by the dislocated workers.

Mayor Baines stated the meeting we had last week on this issue with all the different parties involved, it was my understanding that the state was not proceeding with an application...it didn't qualify because of the situation to set up a center like we did for the JacPac workers...could you explain that a little bit. There were two different grants/avenues that needs to be followed and there's another one that does not provide for the center, am I correct on that?

Mr. Duclos replied the center for JacPac was funded a National Emergency Grant. My understanding is that the Workforce Opportunities Council has determined that it's not appropriate to apply for a National Emergency Grant at this point. For the majority of the needs that we've identified that exist now a National Emergency Grant would probably not provide for that type of assistance. A National Emergency Grant is not going to apply for rental assistance and although it might pay for some translations it's not money that would definitely pay for those types of services plus the fact that the help that we need now is an emergency situation. By the time we apply or the Workforce Opportunities Council applies for an NEG (National Emergency Grant) and we receive a yes or a no from the feds a lot of these people might be out on the street. I think right now there are some very important issues and one is rent and two is assisting the dislocated workers and applying for assistance, help with translations and help with guiding them on where to go next.

Alderman Gatsas stated I'm just looking for some justification that it looks at though we're paying for interpreters or I understand that the state has already had people on premise both in Manchester and in Nashua to assist employees both with unemployment claim forms and also the Department of Labor. Now, correct me if I'm wrong because I've been told that the state has extended these services without a problem.

Mr. Duclos stated the state has provided for translators, however, a lot of the translations that were done were done by volunteers from the Latin American Center. The Sunday after the layoff happened and Employment Security opened their offices the majority of the translators that were there were volunteers from the Latin American Center. At today's Rapid Response sessions the majority of the translations were done by a volunteer from the Latin American Center.

Alderman Gatsas asked what kind of timeframe do you believe that the responses are going to be adequate to meet the needs of those employees...one week, two weeks, four weeks, seven weeks?

Mr. Duclos replied I don't have any idea.

Alderman Gatsas stated "ballpark".

Mr. Duclos reiterated I don't know.

Alderman Gatsas asked how long did it take you to do JacPac?

Mr. Duclos replied JacPac had a center that was open in Manchester and I think that center was open for about a year-and-a-half, Mr. Mayor, is that correct?

Mayor Baines replied that is correct.

Alderman Gatsas stated that was funded with federal dollars.

Mr. Duclos replied yes National Emergency Grant dollars.

Alderman Gatsas stated that wasn't a shut down of a plant that was a legitimate proceeded closure of a plant.

Mr. Duclos replied yes that was a planned closure.

Alderman Gatsas asked how does this not qualify for federal funds when to me it appears that it's a more tragic situation than what JacPac was.

Mr. Duclos replied I don't know how to answer that question because I'm not the person that makes the decision as to whether to apply for a National Emergency Grant or not.

Alderman Gatsas asked and who is that person?

Mr. Duclos replied that would be under the Workforce Opportunities Council and I believe, Mr. Mayor, that you've already contacted them, correct.

Alderman Gatsas asked which would be who?

Mayor Baines replied the Chairman is Dick Anagnost and we had a conversation last week about trying to get a different course in terms of that issue and at this present time I don't think there is a different course that's being pursued but I haven't gotten an update on it and that was a concern that we brought up last week, Alderman, at our meeting. I did get Dick on the phone and he felt that that was the direction to go as well. You have a better sense of where that whole process is in terms of different agencies that are involved here, am I correct?

Mr. Duclos stated the National Emergency Grant funding could be administered by other than NH Employment Security...the Trade Act would be administered through Employment Security, the Trade Act does not provide assistance in rental assistance. It's going to take probably (my guess) another 30 days before we get an answer on the Trade Act.

Mayor Baines stated wasn't it the decision...I'm trying to recollect the meeting and if there are others who were at the meeting...wasn't it the decision by the local office to proceed with the grant as opposed to the other one.

Mr. Duclos stated it was the company that filed for assistance for the workers under the Trade Act.

Mayor Baines stated that is why the decision at the local office by the commissioner here was to proceed under that grant because that's what was required by law, that was my recollection of the meeting.

Mr. Duclos stated Employment Security will administer the Trade Act if it is approved.

Mayor Baines stated the issue that was brought to the meeting that you and I were attending wasn't it the decision of the local commissioner's office that they had to proceed with the Trade Act application because of this nature of this closure?

Mr. Duclos replied yes.

Mayor Baines stated all I'm trying to get is a yes or no answer because I was at that meeting and I don't want to mischaracterize what was said.

Mr. Duclos stated no and I don't want to mischaracterize when I answer.

Mayor Baines asked isn't that exactly what happened?

Mr. Duclos replied a Trade Act petition has gone in.

Mayor Baines asked who made the decision that it was the Trade Act...you can just say it...who made that decision?

Mr. Duclos replied the company filed for Trade Act assistance for the employees...not Employment Security...no state agency did it. The company filed for Trade Act assistance through its employees. If that's approved Employment Security will use those funds to assist the workers in finding work.

Mayor Baines asked can an application be made currently with the other funds that Alderman Gatsas is talking about or can you only do one exclusively.

Mr. Duclos stated you could file for a National Emergency Grant Assistance and also receive Trade Act Assistance, yes.

Alderman Lopez stated just for clarification because I know other Aldermen have questions...that's what I went through today is a lot of technical, red tape, who's to blame, who's this, who's that and I can remember these are human beings that we went to a meeting on...we stood up there and the state, city and county and everybody involved and Rapid Response that we were going to help these people...these people need help, the red tape...if we can get money back from the federal government that's fine but it's the people that have to be taken care of...whether it's the Latino community, the African community or any other community...these are people who lost their jobs, got thrown out and they don't know where to turn to...the Latin American Center happens to be a place, a home for them where they can help understand the principles and get away from the red tape and take care of their needs and then the educators and the officials can go after the money and whatever the case may be...these people do need help and they need it now, not tomorrow.

Alderman Gatsas stated, your Honor, I'm not questioning whether they need help but I'm reading this letter and it says here "through the combined efforts of Southern New Hampshire Services, a Workforce Opportunity Council, Robert Santiago was hired as a peer and support worker to assist CCT employees and that the state and local agencies effective November 29, 2005."...who's paying that person?

Mr. Duclos replied my understanding is that is going to be paid out of the Workforce Investment Act funds.

Alderman Gatsas stated okay so that's one question. I see on here a \$2,500 salary for administrative assistance, translation and interpreter services...who is that paying?

Alderman Lopez stated I think that Hector and Lillye can explain that.

Mr. Velez stated I just want to give you some numbers and then I'll try and answer your questions 566 employees that were affected by this, 90% of those 566 employees were English speakers of other languages. Out of that 75% of the 566 were Latinos which resulted in New Hampshire, just New Hampshire employees a total of 490 individuals. Manchester...about 300-325...you are correct...through this grant through the Workforce Opportunity Grant did hire Southern New Hampshire Services and hired two individuals to be working with both the Nashua and Manchester communities to include Merrimack and anybody in between. These individuals right now have been working at Employment Security. What these funds for the Latin American Center will do...right now, since this took place we have staff at the Latin American Center that have been working with the Rapid Response Team and there's only two staff people at the Latin American Center...one full-time person and one part-time person and that full-time person what they've been doing is working with the Rapid Response Team making referrals, working with everybody to ensure that the individuals that are being affected by this are receiving services and the appropriate referrals...you have to understand the two individuals that they hired are peer/support workers.

Alderman Gatsas interjected let me stop you for one second because I'm certainly not opposed to getting whatever funding we need to get but I guess I'm taking one hat off and putting another one on saying does Workforce Opportunity have the availability to get these funds to the Latino Center to do what you need to do before we have to do it here at the city.

Mr. Velez stated what we've been told before we came to this process is no, at this point no.

Alderman Gatsas asked who told you no?

Mr. Velez replied the Workforce Opportunity Council.

Mayor Baines stated my suggestion here and again we could debate this till the cows come home we're not going to resolve the Workforce issue tonight. My recommendation to the Board...

Alderman Gatsas interjected we might by tomorrow morning, your Honor.

Mayor Baines stated that would be fine too and I'd welcome some dialogue tomorrow morning on it so we'll talk...that we proceed with this funding on tract and then concurrently work to try to clarify this granting opportunity because I heard...Mike Colby and I heard a different explanation of these two granting options that were spoken of at the meeting. It was our understanding at the meeting...both of us confirmed this that we were told it was

either one or the other, it wasn't both...that's what we were told at that meeting, so if that's changed maybe that's good for everybody involved but let's get this on track.

Alderman O'Neil stated it's great that all of you are involved in these other discussions about other opportunities but in the meantime we've got 325 Manchester residents out of work that need assistance yesterday. So, I move the question and let's vote on it.

Alderman Garrity interjected just a quick question, your Honor.

Mayor Baines stated go ahead.

Alderman Garrity asked is there a reason why this wasn't in front of the CIP Committee last night?

Alderman Lopez replied I can answer that, your Honor. We didn't have the information number one until today and I coordinated it with the Chairman of the CIP to bring it in.

Mayor Baines stated also determining the funding sources is what we were working on over the past day or so.

Alderman Gatsas asked may I ask for a friendly amendment from my colleague, Alderman O'Neil. If there are federal funds that come available that the city would be reimbursed.

Alderman Lopez stated I made the motion yes and we could pursue...

Alderman Gatsas stated through a state fund.

Mayor Baines asked who seconded the motion?

Alderman O'Neil replied I did.

Mayor Baines stated please read the motion that is on the floor.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated the motion on the floor is to refer the items to the Committee on Finance.

Mayor Baines stated let's just refer to Finance and then we'll get the motion at that time that we're talking about. Let's move forward please.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Report of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading

- O. Recommending that Ordinance:
“Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by repealing Chapter 94: Noise Regulations in its entirety and inserting a new Chapter 94: Noise Regulations.”
ought to pass as amended.
(Aldermen Lopez, Roy, Sysyn and O’Neil voted yea; Alderman DeVries voted nay.)

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess there was an ordinance for noise regulations that I guess was in Bills on Second Reading for quite some time and I guess it’s been amended and changed. Since that time there’s been legislation that was passed in Concord that I would have thought took care of the noise ordinance at the local level to allow police officers to do their jobs without having to get into some of the criteria that are in this ordinance. I would think that we may want to take another look at what we’re doing with this noise ordinance versus what was passed at the State level.

Alderman O’Neil stated I don’t want to speak for the Chairman but as a member of the committee that’s great news if in fact that has happened...it’s the first time I’m aware of that and there was some real frustration that this thing has been dragging on since February of last year and it was recommended we do nothing and the committee choose to move this thing forward and address some of the issues. What we passed doesn’t fix all the problems but it was going to address some of the issues so that’s great news that there’s some state law that helps address that...the first time I’ve heard it, I don’t know if other members of the committee have.

Alderman Gatsas stated I think I made that statement to this full Board because I was the one that put the amendment in that took care of it that allowed the police officers at their discretion to see if something was reasonable or not on the noise side.

Alderman O’Neil stated that is law today.

Alderman Gatsas replied that is law today.

Alderman O’Neil stated you may have said it in the past, Alderman, but it was never passed onto us that that in fact was the law.

Mayor Baines stated if he said it and no one was listening.

Alderman Gatsas asked is the Chief around. I think he will testify to that because I know I had a conversation with him.

Mayor Baines asked what would be a recommendation in dealing with this?

Alderman O'Neil stated if I may if there is state law that's appropriate I'd move to send it back to the committee but again there was great frustration in committee that this was hanging around since February.

Alderman O'Neil moved that the noise ordinance be referred back to the Committee on Administration/Information Systems. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings

R. Advising that it has discussed the potential disposition of the Center of New Hampshire Parking Garage and has approved the following:

- That the Surplus Property Declaration Process be initiated and has requested reports of the Planning Department and Tax Collector;
(Aldermen Roy, Osborne and Porter voted yea; Alderman Gatsas opposed.)
- Accepted the recommendation of the Board of Assessors to seek outside appraisal and will consider same with the above referenced reports;
(Aldermen Roy, Osborne and Porter voted yea; Alderman Gatsas opposed.)
- Unless otherwise directed by BMA, authorized the Economic Development Director and appropriate staff to enter into negotiations with JPA Corporation to discuss an acceptable purchase price and to report these discussions and any other offers to the Committee on Lands and Buildings.
(Aldermen Thibault, Roy and Porter voted yea; Aldermen Gatsas and Osborne opposed.)
- Authorized JPA Corporation to conduct a physical analysis of the Center of New Hampshire Parking Garage under supervision of the Highway Department including, but not limited to, examining the depth, nature and condition of the concrete structure, foundations and footings with JPA reporting the findings to the City.
(Aldermen Thibault, Roy and Porter voted yea; Aldermen Gatsas and Osborne opposed.)

Alderman Gatsas moved to table Item R. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Roy, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O'Neil, Lopez, Smith, Thibault and Forest voted nay. Aldermen Gatsas, Guinta, Shea, DeVries and Garrity voted yea. The motion to table failed.

Alderman Lopez stated I have some information from Randy Sherman and I thought the Committee on Lands and Buildings was going to meet next week and take this subject up again. Could somebody clarify something here.

Mayor Baines stated this whole thing was tabled in committee.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated either Monday or Tuesday of next week we are scheduling a meeting of Lands and Buildings.

Mayor Baines stated in trying to expedite this could this be referred to that committee meeting next week.

Mr. Randy Sherman, Deputy Finance Officer, stated this is the action that the committee took two weeks ago and they're making a report to the Board. The actions of tonight's committee was just to table the discussion. Now, we've discussed it with the Chairman and he will be reconvening next week.

Mayor Baines stated why don't we refer this to the committee.

Alderman Garrity moved that Item R be referred back to the Committee on Lands and Buildings. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Roy, Porter, O'Neil, Smith and Forest duly recorded in opposition.

There were no nominations presented by Mayor Baines.

8. Confirmation of nominations as follows:

Heritage Commission:

Kathleen Mirabile to succeed herself, term to expire January 1, 2009;
Cathryn "Kate" E. Vaughn to fill a vacant alternate seat, term to expire January 1, 2009; and
Christopher J. Newton to fill a vacant alternate seat, term to expire January 1, 2007.

Mayor Baines advised an error had been made and that Kathleen Mirabile was now nominated to succeed herself and that Christopher J. Newton was now nominated to fill a vacant alternate seat as outlined.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to suspend the rules and confirm the nominations to the Heritage Commission as corrected.

Conservation Commission:

Tara Hurst to succeed Eric Skoglund, term to expire August 1, 2008; and
Gregg Sargent to fill a vacant alternate seat, term to expire
August 1, 2008.

Arts Commission:

Kelleigh L. Domaingue to succeed Grace Freije, term to expire December 1, 2008.

Millyard Design Review Committee:

Dick Anagnost to succeed Dean Kamen, term to expire
January 1, 2009.

Office of Youth Services Advisory Board:

Robert J. Champagne, term to expire January 1, 2009;
Carol A. Johnson, term to expire January 1, 2009;
Catherine E. Allard, term to expire January 1, 2009;

Toni H. Pappas, term to expire January 1, 2009; and
Tricia H. Lucas, term to expire January 1, 2009.

Daniel T. Leach, term to expire January 1, 2008;
James Clinton “Skip” Harris, term to expire January 1, 2008;
Kendall A. Snow, term to expire January 1, 2008;
Susan McKeown, term to expire January 1, 2008; and
Matthew J. Lapointe, term to expire January 1, 2008.

Ashley Pratte, term to expire January 1, 2007; and
Lejla Catovic, term to expire January 1, 2007.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted that these nominations be confirmed as presented.

9. A first report of the Committee on Community Improvement was presented recommending that the Board authorize acceptance and expenditure of funds for the New Hampshire DWI Patrol, Lead Hazard Control, Manchester Health Care Access Review Program, Project Safe Neighborhoods and Trolley Crossing Forced Main Project.
(*Unanimous vote*)

Alderman O’Neil moved to accept, receive and adopt the first report of the Committee on Community Improvement. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas in reference to the Health Care Access Review Program asked can somebody explain to me how we, at the local level, can intervene to find out we’re going to get the uninsured insured, how we possibly think we’re going to pay for it. We’re studying something that we don’t have the ability to take care of, somebody needs to explain to me why we’re going to look at it?

Mayor Baines called upon Mr. Rusczek.

Mr. Fred Rusczek, Health Officer, stated thank you for the questions, Alderman. Allow me an opportunity to talk about this project. This project is the result of the pressures that local health care providers are feeling with the growing number of uninsured, the growing diverse populations that have no insurance. This isn’t to get people insurance and this isn’t to tie any city agency into this at all. This is coming from grants from the Endowment, the Bean Foundation and from the hospitals. A lot of it is trying to look at as a community how can we reorganize the services that are provided to make them more efficient. For example, the refugee population has multiple points of entry. What can we learn from other communities to take and centralize those services to make them more cost efficient. The role here isn’t to try to find folks insurance that don’t have, it’s not to try to find a way to get into city money or anything else. The goal is to do the most that we possibly can with the sources of funds that are out there.

Alderman Gatsas stated the facts are we have about 150,000 in the State of New Hampshire that are uninsured...that's a fact. To use \$150,000 to find out that given fact when you really can't find out...you know the source and you know the problem now we've got to find a miraculous way to take care of that problem. I think that's being worked on at the state level, I think that it's important that if we take some of that money and we understand that we have those pockets and we have a community that is as diverse as the one in Manchester that maybe we use some of those dollars and help some of those providers out by saying we have some interpreters that if you need them we can supply them rather than doing a study of gathering people and collective understandings on what we're going to do with health care. I think we all understand what the problems are...there is certainly an impact on the providers in this community. Now, taking those monies and putting them into a direction that may help even some of the people from CCT in a time that they don't have health care to find out how we can get them that health care and get them to a place that they can get some services. I think that would be a more constructive dollar than just studying a problem that we already know exists.

Mr. Rusczek stated I think the challenge again is to look at how we can reorganize what we do, do things better and more cost-efficient. The refugees are a population where we don't have translators to send out to every visit that a non-English speaking person would make to all the different health care providers that might be providing services and that's just a model. But, the other challenges are that places like community Health Center have seen a growth in the uninsured...25% of its population to 50%. Now, are there additional federal funds...there's different grant programs and such so we're trying to find out from other communities across the area and look into opportunities to expand the resources while not trying to put that burden on the local level. This work is also tied in very closely and closely linked to the work of the Governor's Citizen Initiative on Access to Health Care and that's a 10-year project.

Alderman Gatsas asked is this work going to be done by Manchester Health employees?

Mr. Rusczek replied no. What the Manchester Health Department is doing as the local health department is we're coordinating this work for the community so the funds that are there come from foundations like the Endowment for Health, the Bean Foundation, Catholic Medical Center, Elliot Hospital and Dartmouth Hitchcock by working together and coordinating the work we're just trying to pull together and use "X" consultants to do the work, it won't be done by Health Department employees.

Alderman Gatsas stated don't you think that the Manchester Health Department is overstepping its bounds to what HHS (Health and Human Services) is trying to do?

Mr. Rusczek stated HHS, DHHS is at this table as well. It doesn't step into the work of DHHS.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to accept the first report. The motion carried with Alderman Gatsas duly recorded in opposition.

A second report of the Committee on Community Improvement was presented recommending that in response to a request from the Manchester Development Corporation, the Board concur with the expenditure of \$15,000 from the MDC Restricted Marketing Account in support of the new marketing initiative of the Manchester Economic Development Office; and for such purpose a resolution and budget authorizations have been submitted.
(Unanimous vote)

Alderman Roy moved to accept, receive and adopt the second report of the Committee on Community Improvement and refer to the Committee on Finance. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

A third report of the Committee on Community Improvement was presented recommending that requests for sewer abatements as follows be granted and approved as recommended by the Environmental Protection Division:

- 91 Lilac Court in the amount of 4229.40; and
- 90 Fourth Street in the amount of \$140.40.

(Unanimous vote)

Alderman DeVries moved to accept, receive and adopt the third report of the Committee on Community Improvement. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

A fourth report of the Committee on Community Improvement was presented advising that they have approved a request from the Building Department to replace an inspection vehicle. The Committee notes that this vehicle will be purchased with FY06 MER funds under the supervision of the Highway Department.
(Unanimous vote)

Alderman Garrity moved to accept, receive and adopt the fourth report of the Committee on Community Improvement. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

10. Report of the Committee on Community Improvement regarding the Police and Fire Computer Aided Dispatch and Record Management System Program.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated this item has been tabled in committee, we do not have a report available, your Honor.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS

13. A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2003 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Thousand Two Hundred Two Dollars and Forty Cents (\$7,202.40) for the FY2003 CIP 215903 Lead Hazard Control Grant Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2006 CIP 214206 Manchester Health Care Access Review Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Nine Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$9,709.20) for FY2006 CIP 410706 NHDWI Patrol Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) for FY2006 CIP 411806 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the FY2006 CIP 612606 Citywide Marketing Plan Program.”

“Amending the FY2004, 2005, and 2006 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) for FY2006 CIP 612706 Displaced Employee Homeless Prevention Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Two Dollars (\$43,862.00) for FY2006 CIP 713106 Trolley Crossing PS Force Main Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) from Contingency to Environmental Protection Division – Chemicals.”

ought to pass and be enrolled.

(Aldermen Roy, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest voted year; Alderman Gatsas opposed to resolution relative to Health Care Access Review Program.)

Alderman Lopez moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Finance. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Gatsas duly recorded in opposition to the resolution relative to the Health Care Access Review Program.

14. Ordinances:

“An Ordinance amending the Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding a new Section 32.104 Department of Senior Services.”

“An Ordinance amending the Ordinances of the City of Manchester by amending Sections 32.105, 32.106, 32.107, 32.108, 32.109 and 32.110 substituting language of ‘Senior’ for ‘Elderly’.”

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Health Assistant) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Building Automation Specialist) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Chapter 70: Motor Vehicles and Traffic by deleting Sections 70.61-70.65 dealing with snow removal and amending Chapter 71: Snow Emergency Regulations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to dispense with the reading by titles only of the ordinances.

These Ordinances having had their second reading by titles only, Alderman Porter moved the question on passing same to be enrolled. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

On motion of Alderman Gatsas, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration to meet.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

17. A report of the Committee on Account, Enrollment and Revenue Administration was presented advising that Ordinances:

“An Ordinance amending the Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding a new Section 32.104 Department of Senior Services.”

“An Ordinance amending the Ordinances of the City of Manchester by amending Sections 32.105, 32.106, 32.107, 32.108, 32.109 and 32.110 substituting language of ‘Senior’ for ‘Elderly’.”

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Health Assistant) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Building Automation Specialist) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Chapter 70: Motor Vehicles and Traffic by deleting Sections 70.61-70.65 dealing with snow removal and amending Chapter 71: Snow Emergency Regulations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

were properly enrolled.
(*Unanimous vote*)

Alderman Smith moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 18.** Report of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems recommending that a communication from Joseph Lahr, Executive Director of MCAM TV 23 requesting adoption by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for a resolution regarding SB 1504, the Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act be referred to the full Board of Mayor and Aldermen for consideration.
(Aldermen Forest, Gatsas, Osborne and Porter voted yea; Alderman Lopez voted nay.)

Alderman Osborne moved for discussion. Alderman O’Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez stated if Attorney Arnold and Grace Sullivan could come to the microphone I’d appreciate it...I’d like to let the Board know I voted against this only for the simple reason that Attorney Arnold or Grace Sullivan hadn’t put then John Hancock on it but if they’re willing to do that tonight I’m willing to vote for it...if they’re satisfied with MCAM’s resolution.

Mayor Baines stated I would ask people to be very concise on this issue, I don’t think we need to discuss this for a half-an-hour tonight. The question is do you support this resolution.

Dr. Grace Sullivan, Director of Manchester Community Television replied yes as I stated in a letter on October 4, 2005 to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen...requested that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen resolve to oppose the bill before the United States Congress regarding Telcom. If these bills were enacted cable franchise fees could be eliminated, yes I support it.

Deputy City Solicitor Arnold stated I would by and large concur. I don’t think that the proposed legislation SB 1504 serves the city as well as the present system which allows franchising and some control of revenue streams as well as the PEG Access Channel.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to adopt the resolution. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 19.** A report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings was presented recommending that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen find property located at 1832 Candia Road (a portion of Tax Map 522, Lot 5 known as Parcel “A”) surplus to city needs and that said property be disposed of through sale to Richard Exline, subject to the following conditions:
- that Parcel “A” be subdivided from city-owned Lot 5 and sold to Mr. Exline at a price of \$7,500, an amount deemed agreeable by the Board of Assessors;

- that the line of subdivision be represented by a direct continuation of the rear lot line for parcel Tax Map 522, Lot 2, to a parcel known as Tax Map 493, Lot 19;
- that Mr. Exline be required to consolidate Parcel “A” into his existing Lot 1;
- that the existing 20’ foot public access easement across Tax Map 522, Lot 1 be extinguished; and
- that Mr. Exline be required to pay all surveying and other costs associated with this subdivision, including Registry of Deeds filing fees.

The Committee notes that it finds cause to dispose of the property in such manner in that it has been determined that there are no known City uses for the parcel, and that sale of such parcel can only benefit this abutter.

The Committee further recommends that the City Solicitor be authorized to prepare such documents as may be required to carry out such disposition and inform the Board, the City Clerk, the Board of Assessors and the Tax Office once the transfer has occurred, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute such instruments as may be required subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor.

(Unanimous vote)

Alderman Porter moved to accept, receive and adopt a report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

20. Report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings regarding the disposition of the Center of NH Parking Garage, if available.

Mayor Baines stated Item 20 will not be dealt with this evening.

21. Report of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety was presented recommending that the City extend the contract with Central Parking for management of the Victory Garage through June 30, 2006.

(Unanimous vote)

Alderman Osborne moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated I’m just wondering and out of curiosity when are we ever going to allow the city to have an opportunity to rebid this contract somewhere...this has been going on since some December day four years ago and we are still not getting the city the best situation on this contract, I don’t understand this. I’m totally confused as to how we have a Procurement Code in this city that is very clear what we should be doing. Now, I can understand an extension that says we should be extending this contract because we’re looking at it, I can understand saying we’re extending this contract because we must look at the parking study that’s coming forward...now, those things have come and gone. Now, the Procurement Code is very clear with contracts. Now, I guess I’m asking the City Solicitor are we abiding by the Procurement Code that took us five years to get into place and does this take some sort of idea with the Procurement Code and how it relates to it.

Mayor Baines called upon City Solicitor Clark.

City Solicitor Clark stated the Procurement Code does allow for extensions under the same terms and conditions.

Alderman Gatsas stated let me follow-up then. When you say same terms and conditions does that mean no increases for salaries, no increases for any other than maintenance fees, none of those things included in that contract?

City Solicitor Clark replied it's under the same terms and conditions...I don't know exactly what's in that contract I'd have to take a look at it.

Alderman Gatsas stated I can tell you that there are increases in wages that we vote for. I think it's one of the items that are coming before us today. We vote for pay raises for a company that I don't how we can possibly do that because it has no purview over the city.

Mayor Baines stated wasn't it about four years ago that there was a recommended paying share.

Alderman Gatsas stated it certainly was, your Honor. It took five years to get the Procurement Code remember.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to accept the report of the Committee. The motion carried with Alderman Gatsas duly recorded in opposition.

- 22.** Report of the Conservation Commission regarding a conservation easement at 55 Riverfront Drive, The Pointe at Riverfront Condominium, if available.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated we have not received any report, your Honor.

- 23.** Communication from Thomas Clark, City Solicitor, requesting an unpaid leave of absence of up to 90 days for Susanna Newsom (probationer), District Court Prosecutor, pursuant to ordinance §33.076(B) due to premature delivery of twins on November 25, 2005.

Alderman Roy moved to approve the requested unpaid leave of absence for Susanna Newsom. Alderman Porter duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 24.** Communication from Thomas Arnold, Deputy City Solicitor, conveying a request by PSNH for an easement in the area of Gay Street.

Alderman DeVries moved that the easement be granted subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor and that the Mayor be authorized to execute any necessary documents as may be required. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked is there a monetary value for this easement?

Deputy City Solicitor Arnold replied no not at this point.

Alderman Gatsas asked is there is a reason why?

Deputy City Solicitor Arnold replied this easement is for the benefit of Summit Packaging that is going into the old Sweetheart Plastics plant. They needed that easement to upgrade their electrical service so that they can move from their location over at the airport to this location.

City Solicitor Clark stated it had to do with the transaction they had with the airport when airport bought them out.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 25.** Communication from Carol Johnson, Deputy City Clerk, submitting an ordinance amendment:

“Amending Section 33.079 Vacations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by deleting Section 33.079(J) relating to waivers to the leave accrual formula.”

as requested.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated two things: one, first of all there is a substitute that we have distributed to the Board which in essence is the same thing, it's still removing the same section, it's just removing the current section as it was recently adopted. Secondly, my communication outlines that this item can either be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading or that the Board could suspend the rules and place it on its final reading at this time...I'm not sure what the Board wants to do.

Alderman Lopez moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

“Amending Section 33.079 Vacations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by deleting Section 33.079(J) relating to waivers to the leave accrual formula.”

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted that the Ordinance be read by title only, and it was so done.

This Ordinance having had its final reading by title only, Alderman Garrity moved the question on passing same to be ordained. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Roy stated I just want to make sure that upon passage this doesn't go against any agreements we've made with employees in the past but is from here on out.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated that was indicated in my letter, your Honor, it would not change any law that was in effect at the time that it was enacted.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess my question is if these aren't taxpayer's dollars...

Deputy City Clerk Johnson interjected the ordinance applies across the board to all departments as it currently exists. The only ones that were granted, that I know of, were to the airport.

Alderman Gatsas stated I'm reading "J" and its says "Notwithstanding any other provisions of this ordinance, the Airport Director may request a waiver...".

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated no the substitute one indicates that "a department head may request a waiver" because the Board had changed and that was the physical ordinance that was adopted.

Alderman Gatsas stated do we have a copy of that?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied yes substitute Item 25...do you want my copy?

Alderman O'Neil stated just a quick question, is this the shortest-lived ordinance in the history of the city?

Mayor Baines replied I guess.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 26.** Communication from Joanne Shaffer, Second Deputy Finance Officer/ Treasury Manager, seeking authorization to expend funds from the EPD Replacement Account in the amount of \$36,000.00 for the replacement of a 10,000 gallon storage tank.

Alderman Lopez moved to approve expenditure of funds in the amount of \$36,000 from the EPD Replacement Account for the purpose intended. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 27.** Mayor Baines advises that a motion is in order that all matters pending before the present Board of Mayor and Aldermen and its committees as of January 3, 2006 be referred to the next Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Alderman Thibault moved that all matters pending before the present Board of Mayor and Alderman and its Committees as of January 3, 2006 be referred to the next Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked by doing this what happens...I think Alderman Thibault has a Lands and Buildings meeting coming up, we have a CIP Committee meeting coming up to address the CAD issue...there's a good possibility the Board...I know on the CAD issue in CIP the Board may have to meet again.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated it is my understanding that the Board is meeting December 19th...this is matters pending as of January 3rd, which is the date of the Inauguration.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated anything as of that point in time needs to be transferred to the next Board.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 28.** Ordinance:

“Amending Sections 33.026 (Cemetery Supervisor) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted that the Ordinance be read by title only, and it was so done.

This Ordinance having had the approval of the Human Resources Committee and the Committee report having been accepted by the Board, Alderman Sysyn moved that the Ordinance pass and be Ordained. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

29. Ordinances:

“An Ordinance amending the Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding a new Section 32.104 Department of Senior Services.”

“An Ordinance amending the Ordinances of the City of Manchester by amending Sections 32.105, 32.106, 32.107, 32.108, 32.109 and 32.110 substituting language of ‘Senior’ for ‘Elderly’.”

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Health Assistant) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Building Automation Specialist) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to dispense with the reading by titles only.

These Ordinance having had had their third and final reading by titles only, Alderman Osborne moved on passing same to be Ordained. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

30. Bond Resolutions:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,600,000) for the 2006 CIP 711806, CSO Crescent Road Basin Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,300,000) for the 2006 CIP 711906, CSO Poor/Schiller Street Area Project.”

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the Bond Resolutions by titles only.

Alderman Smith moved that the Bond resolutions pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked did we eliminate the noise ordinance?

Mayor Baines replied yes we did.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

31. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2003 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Thousand Two Hundred Two Dollars and Forty Cents (\$7,202.40) for the FY2003 CIP 215903 Lead Hazard Control Grant Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2006 CIP 214206 Manchester Health Care Access Review Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Nine Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$9,709.20) for FY2006 CIP 410706 NHDWI Patrol Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) for FY2006 CIP 411806 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the FY2006 CIP 612606 Citywide Marketing Plan Program.”

“Amending the FY2004, 2005, and 2006 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) for FY2006 CIP 612706 Displaced Employee Homeless Prevention Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Two Dollars (\$43,862.00) for FY2006 CIP 713106 Trolley Crossing PS Force Main Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) from Contingency to Environmental Protection Division – Chemicals.”

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the Resolutions by titles only.

Alderman Osborne moved that the Resolutions pass and be Enrolled. Alderman O’Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated Item 32 has an item (resolution), which has been brought forward from the Finance Committee as well.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to remove the following item from the table for discussion.

- 32.** Report of the Committee on Community Improvement recommending that the proposed Short Term Municipal/County Cleaner Manchester Project be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
(Tabled 10/18/2005 pending further information.)

Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) from Contingency to Highway – Miscellaneous.”
(Tabled in Finance October 18, 2005)

Alderman Lopez moved that these items be approved and request the Public Works Director, Frank Thomas, work with the Hillsborough County Department of Corrections for implementation of utilizing prisoners to work in the median strips as indicated. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Osborne stated I just have one question...the liability of the city, we're definitely not liable for anything.

Mayor Baines stated that was explained last time.

Alderman Forest stated Harry Ntapalis came before us, I believe, to explain that we didn't have it.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to approve the proposal as outlined in the CIP report. The motion carried with Aldermen Gatsas and Osborne duly recorded in opposition.

Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) from Contingency to Highway – Miscellaneous.”

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Lopez moved that the Resolution pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Gatsas duly recorded in opposition.

- 33.** Communication from Gerard Fleury, Executive Director of the Manchester Employee's Contributory Retirement System, advising that the System is seeking sponsorship in the NH Senate for three pieces of legislation in the 2006 session.
(Tabled 11/15/2005 pending further discussion by the Retirement Board of Trustees.)

This item remained tabled.

34. NEW BUSINESS

Communication from Alderman O'Neil relative to discussion during the FY2007 operating budget of the Manchester Fire Department.

Alderman O'Neil stated the Clerk will have a letter that she will pass out regarding the Manchester Fire Department and the need for District Chiefs...I'm not asking for any action tonight but I think it's a matter that needs some real attention. This is unfortunately...December, January and February...can be the highest times of fires...with the cost of heating oil and other sources going up people are going to seek alternative ways to heat that usually leads to more fires, Christmas time leads to more fires so this was just something that I had been thinking about doing for a while and just got around to writing it. I hope it's something we may be able to give at some point some attention in the short-term and hopefully where most of us will be serving next year that we can talk about during the budget process.

Mayor Baines asked could we refer the letter to the budget process?

Alderman O'Neil replied we could although I'd like to see it brought up sooner, if possible, but I'm not going to make that a motion.

Communication from Michael Roche regarding a negotiating session in July 2005.

Alderman O'Neil stated we're all in receipt of a letter that was sent to our homes regarding an issue with negotiations and my feeling is the fact that it was addressed to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that we need to take some action on where to refer it and I'd like to refer it to the Human Resources Department which is the appropriate department and I think they need to respond to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Mayor Baines stated I don't want to get into a full blown discussion.

Alderman O'Neil stated I spoke to the City Solicitor about that earlier and that was his advice and I'd like to see the Board get some response on this.

Mayor Baines stated Mr. Clark would you please address this issue.

City Solicitor Clark stated as I understand it it was a letter that was addressed to each member of the Board, a complaint about an employee. Alderman O'Neil is asking that it be referred to the Human Resources Department for action and report back to this Board.

Alderman O'Neil stated it was addressed to us.

Mayor Baines stated I will advise extreme caution because I've been involved in testimony on issues of Aldermen getting involved in personnel issues and I'm cautioning you that you need to be very cautious.

Alderman O'Neil stated the letter was written to us.

Mayor Baines reiterated that my experience in this and the city is...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I asked the City Solicitor for advice and that was his recommendation.

City Solicitor Clark stated as I understand it the Board is just going to be asking back for information on how it was handled.

Alderman O'Neil moved to his recommendation.

Alderman Shea asked what are we voting on, your Honor?

Mayor Baines stated that's a good question and I stand by my statements.

Alderman Shea asked could you please repeat your statement.

Mayor Baines replied my statement is that the Board should be very cautious of getting involved in personnel matters that appropriately belong (under the Charter) to the department heads and the Board should not be getting involved.

Alderman O'Neil stated we were brought into it with the letter though as far as I'm concerned.

Mayor Baines stated all I'm giving you is my opinion. My opinion after January 3rd doesn't matter but I'm telling you I've experienced personnel matters and the Board should not be getting involved in personnel matters...that's my opinion.

Alderman O'Neil stated I made a motion.

Mayor Baines stated there is a motion...seconded by...

Alderman O'Neil stated that it be referred to the Human Resources Department and we be notified on the recommendation that comes out of it if any.

Alderman Shea stated we're referring to the District Chiefs.

Alderman O'Neil stated no it's a different letter.

Alderman Gatsas stated may I ask a question of the Human Resources Director. Are you familiar with the letter?

Ms. Virginia Lamberton, Human Resources Director, replied yes I have seen the letter.

Alderman Gatsas asked do you believe that it's within your purview or this Board's purview to act on this letter.

Ms. Lamberton replied it would be my opinion that it would be my responsibility to deal with the complaint and keep it there. No disrespect to Alderman O'Neil but if we have employees feeling that they can write letters to the Board that would escalate...we would have 25 letters, 50 letters and then what...that's all I would be doing is investigating allegations which may or may not be true whereas at this point in time if there's a complaint I currently just give it to the department head and the department head investigates it and deals with it accordingly.

Alderman Gatsas stated that's the way it's gone with all other complaints.

Both Mayor Baines and Ms. Lamberton replied that's correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated the only difference here, your Honor, this is the first time we've ever received a letter.

Mayor Baines stated you shouldn't be receiving a letter. They can send letters but it should be handled...

Alderman O'Neil reiterated I made a motion and let's vote on it.

Mayor Baines stated that's fine and we understand that. But, I'm cautioning the Board.

Alderman O'Neil stated we're involved in personnel decisions every day here, so I respectfully disagree with you on that one.

Mayor Baines stated that's fine you can but I disagree with you also. What do you want to do?

Alderman O'Neil reiterated I made a motion to refer it to the department and the department responds to us.

Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Roy voted yea. Aldermen Gatsas voted nay.

Alderman Guinta stated that's consistent with current policy.

Mayor Baines replied no it's not consistent.

Alderman O'Neil stated there is no policy.

Alderman Guinta asked is there a policy?

City Solicitor Clark stated the department heads have personal responsibility for their departments and their employees that's very clear in the Charter. What I had suggested to Alderman O'Neil is that if the Board wanted to refer this to the department head for handling.

Mayor Baines stated the motion on the floor is to refer it to the Human Resources Department and report back to the Board...I object to the second part of it...let's continue with the roll call.

The roll call vote continued as follows: Aldermen Guinta, Sysyn, O'Neil, Lopez, DeVries, Smith, Thibault and Forest voted yea. Aldermen Osborne, Porter, Shea, Garrity voted nay.

Mayor Baines vetoed the motion.

Alderman O'Neil moved to override the veto. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion..

A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Gatsas, Osborne, Porter, Lopez, Shea, Garrity voted nay. Aldermen Guinta, Sysyn, O'Neil, DeVries, Smith, Thibault, Forest and Roy voted yea.

Alderman Roy stated back on that same subject since the veto now makes that letter no action could I have a friendly amendment or support for following what you perceive is the procedure.

Mayor Baines stated the motion would be to refer that to the Human Resources Director. I would accept that motion.

Alderman Roy replied that is what I believe the last motion was.

Mayor Baines responded no it wasn't.

Alderman Roy stated okay then I will let that situation drop and go on to my new business.

Alderman Lopez stated I do think that it is a serious letter regardless of whether it comes from any employee or not.

Mayor Baines stated and she will address it. It is being addressed by the way.

Alderman Lopez stated I think also the Mayor has to be involved in that particular situation because it is a department head.

Mayor Baines replied I am aware of it and I have had conversations and will continue to have conversations.

Alderman Roy stated I had the Clerk write or give out a letter I had written this afternoon regarding some of the key facts regarding our Police Department and if while I speak the Chief wants to make his way up to the hot seat that would be great so we could save time. Right now as you can see by the letter we have 209 sworn officers and that is every position that the BMA has approved in any previous budget. There are no hirings waiting to happen. If you look at the bottom of the key facts we currently have 191 fully trained officers available for service. At this point we are getting to the point that if we don't start advertising and start the hiring process we will not have any officers in the April academy and they have to go through the 26 week training process. The letter is in front of you. What I am asking you to do tonight is no matter what your beliefs are on budgetary procedure or how many police officers we are going to hire or not going to hire in the next year the undeniable fact that we currently have two vacancies and five to six retirements that will happen before the end of this calendar year and the fact that it takes 26 weeks to get an officer from the day they are sworn in to when they can ride alone in a police car in a safe manner, I would ask this Board to support starting the hiring process and asking the Chief to go out and start the testing and the background checks and at that point we may or may not have enough time between then and now or now and then to see how the budgets are going to unfold, see what we are going to have for surpluses and the availability to add manpower. There has been a lot of discussion over this over the past year. A lot of it has been political. A lot of it has been just gut feeling that the City needs to take an aggressive step in adding more police officers. If the Chief would like to add anything I would be happy to hear from him. The Chief and his deputies have looked at all of these numbers as fact and I would ask the Board to unanimously approve of my motion to start the hiring/testing process and if we were able to have officers added to the budget we will at least have them on the streets in a shorter period of time.

Mayor Baines stated my understanding is you would authorize them to proceed and before the actual hiring they would have to come back to the Board to see where we are in the budgetary process.

Alderman Roy responded correct.

Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

John Jaskolka, Police Chief, stated I agree with Alderman Roy's letter here. Obviously over the past three, four or five years the hiring process has become very difficult. We test...the last couple of tests we have done we had 120 people or 112 people and we end up hiring 2 or 3 people out of that. We were very lucky in this last testing process in that we found some certified police officers. I am going to be looking for the two vacancies we have now at a police officer from New York City who is coming in Friday to test. Hopefully he will get through the process and we will be able to fill one of the vacancies. Last Monday at the swearing in ceremony we were at full complement, which only lasted a couple of days. We had one retirement and today my Chief Firearms Instructor advised me that she is taking a job as a national sales rep thus creating the second vacancy. We have to look at our hiring strategies, our recruiting strategies and I can almost positively say that we have pretty much exhausted the pool of candidates here in the NH area. We have to go outside of NH to find more candidates and that is going to take some time and some advertising. To put people in the April academy right now is going to put a big strain on the training and recruitment staff to get these people through the background process. It is doable but it is going to be a strain.

Mayor Baines stated I will support this as well but I would also urge the department to do some far reaching advertising to increase the complement of different minority groups within the department as possible to really broaden your scope of recruitment, which you are going to have to do anyway. That is nothing you disagree with you.

Police Chief Jaskolka responded our intention now is hopefully in the spring to...it is going to be a bit of a cost but to start getting out to some of the job fairs at the different colleges in the different states, which we haven't done in the past. We have done that here but not out of state and that is what we need to do now.

Alderman O'Neil asked, Chief, do you have any feel for is the pay appropriate for the job. The reason I say that is I can think back some years ago and Fred Rusczek is still here we had to make...this is well before Yarger Decker but we had to make adjustments in the pay of nurses because we just were not competing in the market for nurses. I am wondering are we properly paying...are the salaries identified appropriate to attract people to the job? The number of people testing is extremely low. It gives me the impression that the pay is not that great and that is why people are not applying.

Police Chief Jaskolka answered I think the pay may be part of the problem. Some of the other identifiable problems are basically people don't want to work nights. They don't want to work weekends. They don't want to work shift work where they are constantly changing

shifts, which seems to be the problem. Now can that become better because they are going to be better paid? That may be an option.

Alderman Shea stated the Mayor-Elect indicated that we needed at least 10 new officers. To bring your department up to complement, how many do you need? Do you need 10, 20, 30, 15, 8, 12? What is the number that you can give us so that there would be some sort of assurance on the part of the general public that our Police Department has enough officers to begin the different phases that you want to introduce, whether it walking police in different neighborhoods or covering different trouble spots. What is realistic here? What are we talking about?

Police Chief Jaskolka responded realistically what I need to do, Alderman, is I need to increase the numbers in the patrol division. If I could put three more on each shift for nine that would help understanding that out of those three at any given time only two are working and one is on a day off.

Alderman Shea asked so you are saying nine.

Police Chief Jaskolka answered nine to start off with. I don't have and I haven't had for some time a street crime unit. In the past we had a three person street crime unit. Three guys just assigned in plain clothes in a low profile car that just went out and handled the street buys as far as drugs go and handled problems with kids. The incident on Amherst Street, the shooting, that was two guys in a domestic violence car, a low profile car, that rode up on that. A cruiser wouldn't have been able to do that. I don't have that unit anymore. My drug unit is anywhere from 3-5 people short compared to what it used to be and we all know what the drug problem here is in Manchester. I have identified and have one community policing officer assigned now just to identify juvenile gang activity so I am short in the community policing unit, which is probably 2-3 people short. So if I were to go from what I have now and increase it somewhere to 220 or 225 officers I could fill all of those positions and then look to somehow come up with some kind of strategy over the years to add a certain number of officers each year as the population grows.

Alderman Shea asked so to break it down you need at least 20 new officers.

Police Chief Jaskolka answered if I was at full complement I would be at 209 now with the latest approval of four positions. That is three that are going to the 4-12 shift and one that is going to enforcement. If I were to get up to 220 or 225 I would need about 16 officers.

Alderman Shea asked so the difference between 209 and 225 is about 16.

Alderman Roy stated Chairman Shea the Chief is giving you a very diplomatic running a department answer. If you look statistically at what the FBI asks all of the Northeast

regional cities of our size, we should be at 2.7 officers per 1,000. That means to stay in line with the Portlands, the Worcesters and the Springfields we should be at 297 officers. The Chief and I have had many conversations. I don't mind saying to the public we need to increase the complement dramatically. He is telling you the 220 to 225 number will make it sufficient for what he feels he can get through the budget process and I commend him for how he runs the department but from a standpoint of what are we doing as Aldermen for the best of our citizens we should be striving to be at least average. We are still considerably almost 100 less than average so when the Chief says 225 to even be average we would be looking at a 290 to 297 number and that is based on 110,000 citizens. That is not affordable.

Mayor Baines stated so you are going to add 90 police officers now.

Alderman Roy responded I am just giving the facts, your Honor. So realize there is the official budgetary version and then there is the fact of the Northeast regional numbers.

Mayor Baines stated what I would suggest due to the late hour is that whole discussion should be part of the budget process going forward. There is a simple request tonight, which I support, that is to allow them to go ahead with the hiring process and deal with the 90 officers during the budget process. Maybe you should add 100 but deal with it during the budget process and not tonight. I would urge the Board to vote on this motion.

Alderman Lopez stated I have a question. We have had some conversation and I want to make sure that if we go forward with the testing and everything that we have enough money to advertise. There have been some conversations on that. It is either in your budget or the HR budget. Is there enough money to go outside of NH?

Police Chief Jaskolka replied we have advertised once in Massachusetts and their ads are extremely expensive. It is about \$2,500 for a small box.

Alderman Lopez stated I echo the Mayor. We have to get some minority police officers from someplace. If we have to go to San Antonio or some other place to get the police officers over here...I just want to make sure as you move forward, Chief, that there is not going to be a hang up on finances to go outside and advertise. Are you comfortable that you have enough money in your budget?

Police Chief Jaskolka responded no not for that type of advertising.

Alderman Lopez stated so understanding that do we know where we are going to get the money from.

Mayor Baines stated I just estimated that the numbers you are talking about would add about \$4 million to the budget.

Alderman Gatsas stated I certainly hope the taxpayers of this City have turned off their TV's because Alderman Roy has them shocked with 90 police officers and we have them shocked with three times the amount of the values on their home. Pretty soon we are going to have a Manchester tea party down at City Hall and there is going to be a revolt by the taxpayers. I don't even know why we are bringing this forward. The Chief has the opportunity to fill seven positions without having to come to this Board to get him to a full complement because what I am looking at he has currently seven officers in training and he is at a complement of 191. You have some retirees in there. I guess I would be saying to you why are we having these conversations and not waiting for the budget but if Alderman Roy thinks we should have 90 police officers and that is going to reduce crime, I merely tried to get the Police Chief last year to run dogs through the schools and it was like...I don't know what acts he had to go through to get dogs in the schools when we understand that there is a huge drug problem in the City in the schools. There is no question that children have a drug problem.

Mayor Baines stated I am going to repeat again. It is 10 minutes of 11 PM and we are not going to solve this tonight.

Alderman Roy stated I would like to respond to the personal attack. I am very glad that the Senator would like to bring every spending issue up as my initiative today but my response to Chairman Shea was what we should be at. Not do I want to get there. We have had a lot of conversations of where we should be. It is what is feasible in the budget. Delaying this process delays it until maybe November or December of next year. Right now there are two positions that can be filled that the Chief does not have people for. We need to start the hiring and testing process and the advertising process so he can move forward.

Mayor Baines responded I think he can do that anyway. I agree with Alderman Gatsas. Let's just move this forward.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to allow the Police Chief to begin the hiring/testing process for the recruitment of police officers. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk